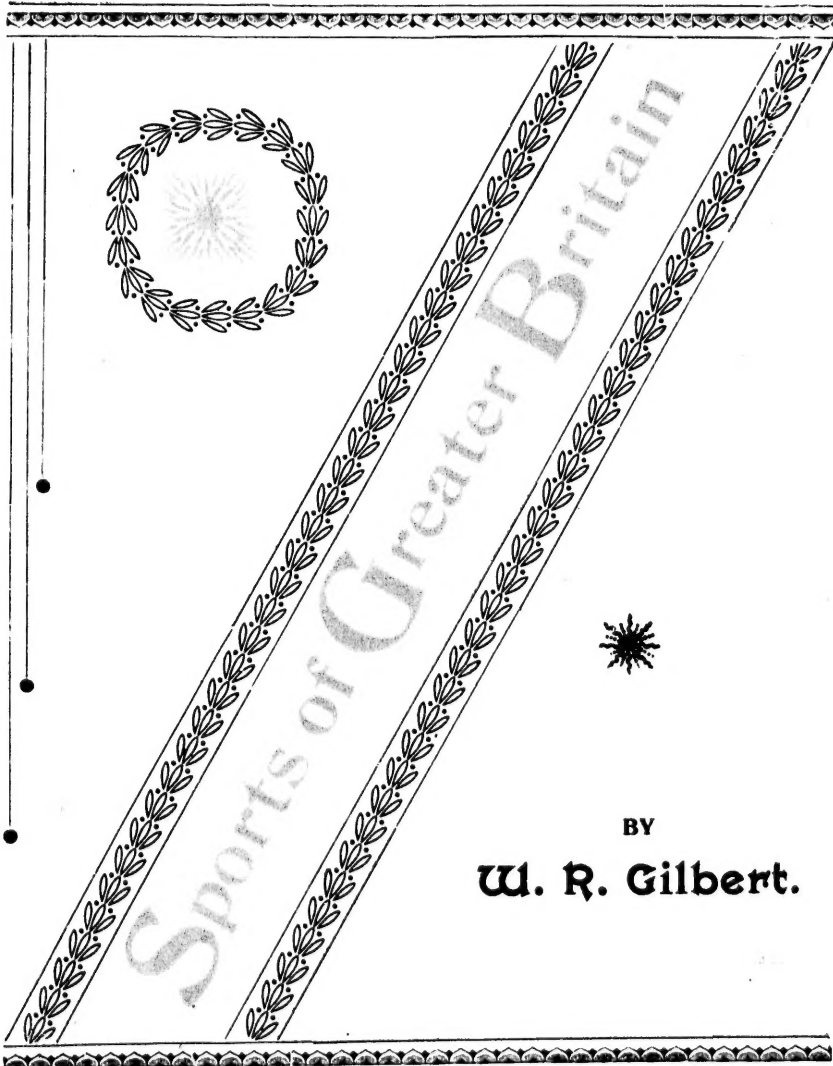


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Montreal Amateur Athletic Association

BY

W. R. GILBERT.



Printed for the Author at "The Shareholder" Office.

MONTREAL 1898.

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To

EDWARD SHEPPARD, Esq.,

President Montreal Amateur Athletic Association,

AND

HENRY BROPHY, Esq.,

President Amateur Athletic Association of Canada,

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THEM PERSONALLY, THE INTEREST
THEY BOTH TAKE IN

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— MONTREAL.

Preface.

A very distinguished writer on "Sports," who lived in the last century, said, "*DELECTANDO PARITERQUE MONENDO* should be the design in sending a book into circulation." It is to be feared that real success falls to very few. Of late the competition among writers on Sports has been so great that they have fully equalled the wants of the public: hence the greater difficulty in such a volume as this of even equalling those books that have gone before. The writer does not wish to contend with such, but only trusts the few practical remarks contained herein may both be interesting and of service to the rising generation.

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SPORTS OF GREATER BRITAIN.



IN the following series of articles under the above heading, I would, before commencing on any one subject, place before my readers one or two reasons for writing at all. In the first place, I believe that a boy or a man who goes in *con amore* for sport, and becomes a "sportsman" in the real meaning of the word, will be able to fill his place in the world for a longer period and to greater advantage than he who "moons about" with no definite aim in life. Do not let me be misunderstood. I do not uphold the Sportsman *vs.* the Reading Man. Far from it, but I contend that if the latter could combine some sport with his reading, he would be in a better condition physically to gain high honors in the literary world. Having arrived at the fact that athletics or sport of some kind is desirable, then I say that each one who undertakes any one branch should use his best endeavors to excel in it; for have we not read "That which is worth doing, is worth doing well?" Convinced of the truth of these general maxims, my chief aim in these articles will be to be of service to beginners in each branch of sport and render what assistance I can to those who are not too far advanced to accept hints, and at the same time, to intersperse anecdotes in connection with each chapter. With this brief introduction I will commence with Shooting.

SHOOTING.

There is no doubt that in shooting the gun is the first essential, yet how few people take this into consideration when buying. One hears a man say: "I gave \$100 for this gun and I can't hit a haystack." There is a simple reason for this—the gun does not fit him,—and this may arise from numerous contingencies—long or short stock, bend of

Health comes from
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stock, thickness of grip, etc. Should the gun not come up to the eye properly at first, it is no earthly use trying to fit the eye to the gun; therefore, send it—the gun, not the eye to the maker, and either have a new one, or have the old one altered. This can be done by any good gunsmith at a trifling cost. In choosing your gun be careful as to weight, and how that weight is balanced; and when I say this, I mean that there should not be, when at the shoulder, any inclination for the muzzle to dip or rise apart from your wants or use. As regards the weight of the piece, if it is a 12 bore, anything between $6\frac{1}{4}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb. would suit, though you will be apt to find that the lighter the gun the higher the price. For shooting in this country, I should wish for nothing better than a 12-bore, a little heavier in the breech than ordinary, so as to withstand any extra charge one might want for “wild fowl.”

In England at the present time most of the best shots use 20-bore guns, with loads of 2 drs. to $2\frac{1}{4}$ drs. of powder, and $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ oz. shot. Of course, if we compare this charge of shot to the $1\frac{1}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ —say, two tobacco pipes of shot to one of powder, used in other guns—it does seem to handicap one's shooting powers, but we must not forget there is such a thing as penetration; you not only want to hit your game, but, what is of far greater importance, to “bag it,” and bag it, too, with the least amount of trouble. What is more annoying than to know that you have mortally wounded a bird or animal and then not to be able to gather it? Therefore, when buying a gun you should not only see that it “fits” you, but also what its capabilities are as regards carriage and penetration. This is to be done, as any practical gunsmith will show you, by placing 40 yards off an ordinary copybook which will contain the space occupied by an ordinarily large bird. Suppose we use No. 6 shot, then there are in any ordinary charge for a 12-bore gun 270 pellets (a smaller bore will do with smaller pellets and *vice versa*), then, if you can show a penetrating pattern of 60, you have a fairly good barrel;—when I say barrel I mean it; do not think that because one barrel shoots in a certain manner the other is bound to act the same, for, if you do, you will be grievously mistaken; you must try both. As regards the charge put into the cartridges, all young

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Excites
the Appetite.

sportsmen fancy that the more powder used the greater the distance covered. This is a mistake, for some guns will burn far more powder than others. This is easily to be proved. Let the shooter put a little more powder in his cartridge than ordinarily and fire along a layer of snow, or, if that is not handy, have some paper laid down for ten yards from the muzzle of his gun, and he will find the grains which have not ignited left whole on the surface. This will prove to him that he has wasted the "raw material." Novices will complain, "Oh, my gun kicks." Do they ever think why? Nine times out of ten it is because the gun does not fit their shoulder properly, being too short in the stock, and the maker is brought to task. He, who very likely has pointed this out when the purchase was made, is far too alive to business to say boldly "I told you so," but simply says—"Ah, yes, I see," and either supplies another gun or puts a heel on the stock, which remedies the defect. Should this kicking result from any other cause, it is most likely from using too heavy a charge in a light gun. Consequently the objectionist is on the horns of a dilemma. Do not think from this that I am a gun-maker or writing in their interests. They are just as liable to make mistakes as any other human being, but it is so easy to lay the missing of an easy shot, or any other "ills a shootist (American) is heir to," to that "ass" the maker.

I now take it you have a weapon to suit you. Well, steady yourself: do not think the mere fact of putting the gun up, shutting one eye and pulling the trigger is going to fill your bag. This is not so. I quite agree with putting the gun up and pulling the trigger, but not so much with the shutting of one eye. That may be very well in rifle shooting or a "pot" shot at a partridge on a tree, but it will hardly work with the same bird on the wing, let alone a cock or a snipe. In support of this I cannot do better than quote the words of Dr. Carver, the best wing shot the world ever saw, who, when shooting pigeons out of a trap in England, was asked: "Doctor, do you shut one eye when you shoot?" "Shut one eye!" he replied, "it takes me all my time to kill even with two, and, if I had been lucky enough to have been born with forty, I guess I would keep them

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VIVIFIC.

all open." The real fact is that the hand and eyes work together, and it may be taken for granted that all shut both eyes on the discharge. (Really good shots may find fault with me here, as they know intuitively whether they have killed or not. I have in my mind's eye one old friend ; if he differs, let him prove me wrong). I will put this in a practical form for young sportsmen as regards sundry birds further on, my intention at present being more to show shooting from a theoretical point of view, and I would wind up with one or two standard rules as regards the management of guns, which may well be taken to heart even by older gunners :

1. Never point the gun—whether loaded or not—or allow it to be pointed at yourself or any other living object, except the game you are in pursuit of, especially when you are cocking or uncocking the weapon, as the cock is liable to slip from your hands.

2. In walking always keep the gun so that, should it by accident go off, you will only hurt Mother Earth or the celestial beings. This rule more especially applies to inconsiderate mortals, who will, whichever way you may turn, have the muzzle of the gun on the level with one's diaphragm.

3. When not shooting always remove the cartridges from the gun, more especially when getting into a wagon or boat.

Before commencing, as to the charges of powder and shot required to bring your game to bag, I should like to be perfectly certain that you have a gun which will allow you to do this. I say "allow" advisedly, for should the defects pointed out exist, you most assuredly will only hit by chance, and may still go on being, as your dearest friend will point out, "an awful shot." This, may be, is not your own fault as regards shooting powers, but simply through want of knowledge in choosing your weapon. Having rid yourself of the defects mentioned there is still one feature to be attended to, viz. : the trigger, *i.e.*, the amount of pressure or weight which is required to discharge the gun.

This to the tyro seems a very small thing, but it is not, for sundry reasons, 1st—It stands to common sense that, assuming the gun when put up, to be on the bird, then the easier the pull

**Happiness is the outcome
of Health. Health is
the outcome of the use
of Abbey's Effervescent
Salt.**

of the trigger the better, for the slighter the pressure exerted the less likely one is to "pull off" the bird. By "pulling off" I mean that, having a really easy shot, when plenty of time is given to take a steady aim—time enough even for the one eyed shot—one will, if the trigger requires extra pressure, be sure to jerk the gun more or less to the right. Now, if it be more, the bird is missed altogether; and, if less, it only receives the scattering pellets on the left-hand side of the charge, which, it is needless to say, have not the same penetrating power as those in the centre. To illustrate my idea: Suppose you fire at a mark forty yards distant with a gun having barrels of an ordinary length—say thirty inches—and having properly covered your target, you find on examination a very small proportion of the charge of shot recorded, and the pellets that have left their names of not too penetrating a character, do not at once throw down the gun and say "No one shall shoot with it again." Far better pick it up, apologize, if it is possible to do so to an inanimate thing, and try to find a reason for your non-success. Nine times out of ten the reason is that the pull of the trigger is too heavy, which in discharging makes the gun go more or less to the right. Again, in pulling the trigger, a man who shoots quickly, and, therefore, with two eyes—if he has two—open, really does not care which part of his finger causes the explosion; but to the young gunner I would give a gentle hint, more especially if he is inclined to overload his cartridges—not to put his finger too far through the trigger guard, for however little recoil there may be, the guard, which is fairly sharp, will catch his second finger just above the second joint, and he will be able to demonstrate to his friends one more of the pseudo pleasures of shooting. As regards this "pulling off," suppose that, in spite of your being a good shot, the send-off of the trigger really does not suit you, and the muzzle is in consequence deviated a quarter of an inch from the dead straight aim you have taken, have you ever thought how far the killing part of your charge will be from your game, say at thirty yards? Well, it would be $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or even more. This then proves, as I have said before, that the target fired at does not receive the most penetrating part of the charge. This means that the central part of the charge would not strike any bird smaller

**The Foundation of Strength
is Health.**

**ABBEY'S
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is the Foundation of Health**

than a goose, even if the gun were actually pointed at the middle of its body.

Now, in writing, as I am, chiefly in the interests of the beginner, it is difficult for me to put on paper what amount of pressure ought to be brought to bear to cause the gun to go off. I know that for an old gunner, one who has mixed and shot with his brother sportsmen, a "hair-trigger" is the one to be used to make a "bag," but I most emphatically say that such an one ought not to be used by any young hand. To the uninitiated I may explain that a "hair-trigger" is one that makes the gun discharge at the very slightest provocation, and, indeed, after some use, it has been known to do so without any assignable cause. Therefore, in choosing your gun you have to choose the happy medium between too hard a pull, which will take the gun off the bird, and too light a one, which will allow the discharge before the gun is on the bird at all.

Above I made use of the phrase "old gunners," but, if you will notice I put an addendum to this, viz.: "who have mixed and shot with their brother sportsmen." Now, I do this because in my shooting trips in this country I have been so struck with the fact that the greater portion of the sportsmen "away back in the woods" are—well, of more than a certain age. This being so, one would have thought that they had come to "years of discretion" as regards the carrying of those antiquated pieces of artillery which they are pleased to call guns. (Do not think for one moment that I under-rate the shooting powers of these heirlooms of better days). But no! age has not had the desired effect. The average man of these old sportsmen has shot by himself all his life, taking particular notice to keep the muzzle of the apparatus away from himself, holding it in such a position that the unwary stranger, if endued with extra good eyesight, can almost see of what number shot the charge consists; or he carefully arranges so that in case of accident the full charge would lodge under his companion's belt. Really sportsman-like habits are only to be acquired by shooting in company with others and always considering their safety before the size of the "bag."

I trust by this time you are satisfied

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Gift is Health.
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with your gun. The question now arises what to put in it. Given then a 12-bore gun of $7\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. weight for an ordinary shooting trip, I do not think you can do better than tell your gunsmith to fill your cartridges with $3\frac{3}{4}$ drs. powder, and $1\frac{1}{8}$ oz. shot, the size of the shot depending, of course, upon the birds you expect to shoot, and also the distance the birds are likely to be from you. If you expect the birds to be wild, you may require to use larger shot. A real gunner, who not only can shoot, but also knows the habits of birds, having been on the outlook for partridges, and having fair-sized shot in his gun, would, upon coming to a likely place for woodcock or snipe, replace these cartridges with others containing No. 8 or No. 10 shot.

Above I said: "Get your gunsmith to fill your cartridges." This I mean especially for young shooters. On the score of safety you should do so, and of cleanliness also, and, as regards price, I do not think that with the ordinary number you use you will appreciate the difference. But, if you must load your own cartridges, I shall be only doing my duty in giving the following hints, viz.:

Provide yourself with the best powder to be obtained, and, to prove if it is good, place a small quantity in the palm of your hand and rub it hard. It ought to leave no dirty mark.

Remember the danger attached to powder—never load except in the day time, and never forget to put what powder you have left back in its proper place, out of reach of small children.

Be careful not to get your measures mixed, and so use the powder measure for the shot and *vice versa*.

It is not necessary to ram the powder too hard, but the wad should be pressed on the shot, so that on shaking the cartridge you cannot hear the pellets rattle.

Before leaving the subject of cartridge loading I must add one other caution. The powder used should be perfectly dry, as it will be if bought from a respectable practical gunsmith. But suppose that, from some cause or other, this is not the case, do not be tempted to put your powder in the oven to dry: this is a very risky experi-

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to the cheeks
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ment and may end in serious damage to your kitchen. No ; in place of this, put it in a perfectly air-tight tin can, and plunge into boiling water. This will not only dry the powder, but even raise its strength one or two degrees, as may be proved by the *ÉPREUVETTE* steam gauge.

I cannot conclude these remarks without one word as to the kind of powder to be used. There is no doubt but that the day of our old familiar friend, black powder, has come, or is coming, to an end. At present it may well be said that the "Shultz," "E. C.," and other powders of this description, are too expensive for ordinary use. Out here this may be the case, but take my advice, and when the time comes that they come as regards price within a reasonable distance of black powder, choose one of the new-fangled compositions, without enquiring "What is it made of?" etc., etc. It is more cleanly, shoots as well, if not better, and above all is smokeless ; consequently on a damp day you are able to get your second barrel in, where shooting with black powder you would be unable to do so. In support of this argument it is only necessary for me to say that all the best pigeon shots in England, and those who go to Monaco to shoot for money, use one of these white powders, and the above are men that oft-times have £1,000 at stake on a single shot—I do not say for themselves alone, but combined with outside bettors.

To combine the practical with the theoretical, let us now fancy it is the first of November, and that we are leaving one of the prettiest little villages on the Shanuon, fifteen miles from Limerick, with which it is connected by a railway, the original line of which the market woman remarked, "I haven't time to go to town by train this morning, so must just hurry up and walk." Let us fancy also that we have had a good breakfast, which, by the bye, my brother sportsmen, will conduce most materially to your chance of bringing back a good bag, and have neither forgotten gun cart-ridges or other requisites ; all of which things have been forgotten at times, even in enlightened Montreal, let alone the poor old "disthrestful" country. We first strike for that little withy bed across the bridge. Now, young ones, has it entered your head with what you are likely to meet on

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such ground, and therefore what cartridges to have in your gun? This ought to be your first thought when loading, and having put cartridges into your gun, remember what size shot is in each barrel, and do not be like a certain young Englishman in India, who, in starting out after snipe, was warned to be sure and keep a ball in one barrel, in case of coming across any wild animals, and who, when a snipe got up, unfortunately discharged the barrel containing the ball first, leaving only a charge of No. 10 shot to withstand the attack of a wandering panther. A friend who identified the collar and boots at the coroner's inquest, when the latter commented on the terrible result of such a mistake, was heard to murmur, "Ah, but he killed the snipe, anyway." History deponeth not if the remains of the snipe were as large as those of the individual who caused its death. *Mais revenons a nos moutons*:—Snipe is the bird we expect now. We have No. 10 shot in the first and No. 8 or 6 in the second barrel. If you can see this little piece of ground by the river just as I have it now in my mind's eye, you will know that when the first bird gets up, it is a case of now or never, so let drive, and do your best to kill. In a case like this there is no time to ponder, for apart from having to shoot through the willow trees, you have also to contend against the natural instinct of the bird, which teaches it to do all it knows to get out of the way of the shot.

Now a snipe is not, for a young sportsman, the easiest bird to bring to bag; for its very squeak, or whistle, or whatever sound it makes is called, is calculated to upset his nerves and so prevent his killing the bird at what I, personally, consider the easiest time, that is, just as it rises; and, that time having flown—and the bird with it—it becomes a difficult question when to shoot, for this bird has a knack of executing a greater number of gyrations in a given space than any mathematician could calculate. This being so, it is needless to tell the young sportsman that having missed the golden opportunity, and wasted his charge on the air, it is best for him to wait till the bird has finished its mad gyrations, and pauses a second before commencing its legitimate flight; the difficulty then lies in judging whether it is still within range or not. To be a judge of

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distance is a *sine qua non* to a good sportsman, because it would be only a "pot hunter" who would deliberately let drive into a number of birds on the off chance of bringing one to bag, and the certainty of wounding some. A gun-carrier of this kind ought to be interviewed on behalf of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. To judge of distance, let the "shootist" fire at any object that may strike him, at the edge of water, when he will be able to see a fairly good pattern of the charge, and will also be able to measure the distance.

I trust my readers will forgive me this long digression from our starting point - "A Day's Shooting"—but I am sure you who are fathers, at any rate, will not grudge any space I may take up, firstly, in teaching the young idea the value of safety in the carrying of the gun, and, secondly, in increasing the chances of his bringing you home a respectable bag.

But to return to business. "Jack," our keeper, shouts "Mark ! Mark !" "What is it, Jack ?" "Big snipe, yer honor, and, by jabbers, if you don't kill it, it's the worst look I'll give you." We go on and get the snipe, a big one, as Jack said ; this meaning a solitary snipe (*Gallinago major*) which is nearly twice as large as an ordinary one, and by a shooting man is considered as great a prize as a "Gillerou" trout to a fishing man. (I will not stake my existence as to the right spelling of this word.) "Mark ! hush ?"—it is very easy to put the latter word on paper, but it certainly does not convey the meaning that an excited Irishman would wish—"Down, look, ducks !" Yes, there they are, about four hundred yards from us, with heads up, evidently frightened by our shot. Now, the way to get at them ? All flat country, no chance of creeping on them. Ah, happy thought, "Jack, how long will it take me to get up to the Lough (Derg) ?" "Quarter of an hour, sor." "Right, give me that and two minutes more to make sure, and then let the dog go up the river." It has come off as wished for ; we were at our station in time to have two barrels into the seven ducks that came sailing up the middle of the stream. Did we get them all ? No, as it happened we only got two, one with each barrel ; this is by not shooting into the "brown," a practice

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Salt
Refrains and Regains
Health.

which brings so many otherwise good shots to grief. I hear someone saying: "Why did he tell his man to send his dog along the river, and not tell the man to go himself?" Simply, my enquiring friend, I may tell you the wild duck is a wily bird—very much so—and had that man shown himself at all, they would have been up and away altogether, whereas with a dog coming along, they simply get up and sail quietly up the middle of the stream.

"Now, Jack, where to? Do you think there's a chance of a grouse if we skimmed the side of the mountain and then took a boat back to the Clare shore?" "Now, yer honor, would you be after leading a poor man astray afther grouse in November? Ach, now, the flask will niver hould out!" "Never mind, Jack, its all in the day's work," and having consoled him thus far we set off for the mountain side. We had not got farther than the edge of the first covert—and I may point out to those who do not know, that there are really good coverts, in blocks, on the sides of most Irish mountains—when Jack in his best Irish whisp'r blurted out, "Look!" I did look, and saw that by certain signs well known to real sportsmen,—men as I have said who not only go out shooting, but also study the habits of birds—there were, or had been, woodcock about.

Now, those who go out and make these wonderful bags of "cock" in the Lower Provinces, and as it has been returned to me, never miss a shot, "dress up" and let us have a good look at you. These are the sort of men that the late P. T. Barnum would have shown as natural curiosities—for indeed they are, though they do not know it. Now, those who talk like this, how would they like a man to count their cartridges in the morning, go with them through the day, return and count both what are left and the proceeds of cartridges shot off? This trial is of course fair enough for cock shooting, where you do not very often kill MORE than one bird at a shot; and if practised you will find your ingenuity pretty well taxed to make the two accounts tally. Mark Twain, would, I think, call this "sarcism;" but, my readers, my readers, my conscience will not allow me to let the fanciful tales promulgated by these sportsmen go unchallenged. A boy may go out for the first time, and being of

<p>Abbey's Effervescent Salt Cures as well as Prevents Disease.</p>
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a nervous disposition, in fact nearly afraid to pull the trigger, may hit or miss as the case may be ; but it is our "swagger man" who on missing a shot says "too far ; ought not to have shot !"—and in this way he accounts for his wasted cartridges. Take it from me, and if not satisfied go back forty years, which will take you beyond my own personal prejudices, and you will find that even then a man was dubbed an ass if he made any excuse at all in shooting. I grant you the shooter may be right, and he may prove it to his own satisfaction, but the odds are very much against his convincing others. This is an old adage : "The proof of the pudding is in the eating."

I have seen some of the best shots in England perform with the gun (and it must be remembered that ordinary partridge shooting there, off the stubble or out of the turnips, is about 50 per cent. easier than shooting cocks in Canadian coverts), and though I may have seen one or two men have an exceptional day when they have literally missed nothing, still it is those very men who will tell you that this is more by luck than good judgment.

But, to return to our own shooting. Though we have seen signs of woodcock, do not let us be too certain that we shall find any. This bird, being essentially nocturnal, feeds at night, frequenting then those moist places most likely to provide its natural food ; whereas in the day, when it does the greater part, if not all its sleeping, it betakes itself to a drier and maybe thicker covert, out of which it is not much use to try to get it without the aid of dogs—Sussex spaniels for choice. We have this particular morning only an Irish water spaniel, of not much use for covert shooting. What is to be done ? Then the ever ready Jack comes to the fore : "Whist now, good luck to you, don't you mind what a blow we had early this morning ; the birds will be all in the heather on the mountain side." I may here remark that the coverts on the mountain sides in Ireland consist partly of high trees, interspersed with black thorn, laurel, holly and juniper, all favorites of the woodcock. Therefore, when it blows anything like a gale these are so disturbed by the continual falling of leaves, twigs, etc., from the higher trees that they prefer to take their rest in greater comfort amongst

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the heather and fern. Jack was right, the cock were there ; but, as it always happens on a windy day, were pretty wild, and wanted a lot of killing even in the open, so we only bagged nine between us. I take it that no bird is so often missed as the cock, not only because it sometimes presents the most difficult shots, but again from the very fact that every now and then it gives us such an easy one, that we are careless and miss it on that account. Before leaving this bird I would caution young sportsmen as regards this easy shot. If it is an easy one, and there is no very thick covert near, give the bird a little law, so that it shall not be mangled. Again, should you be shooting with any one, be sure never to shoot "jealous," that is to try to get the bird down before your friend, the shot being properly his, just for the sake of being able to brag of the size of your bag at the end of the day. No, if it is his shot let him have BOTH his barrels, and then "wipe his eye" if you can. One more "wrinkle"—woodcock and snipe get up against the wind—"ver b. sap."

Having had a little lunch (too big a one is a great mistake), we make our way to that favorite marsh where we know we shall be sure to have a couple—or may be more—shots at duck or teal. Having changed our cartridges—knowing we shall only see snipe on the way and fearing we shall be tempted to shoot and so disturb the larger birds—we, in about a quarter of an hour, arrived at our destination, a swamp about sixty yards wide—a nice width for a gun to walk each side—covered up with high flag grass. We do not go with the wind now, but keep it as dead in our faces as possible. We have not gone fifty yards when up gets an old mallard, quacking as hard as it can to give warning of danger. It is no good shooting too far, so hurrying on, we come right upon three more, which get up between us and take a bee line over Jack, so that I am unable to shoot, and he, when just pulling, finds himself over his knees and gradually sinking in a "quaking bog." Not understanding Irish I cannot give the meaning of the expressions made use of by him whilst extricating himself. In some places these same "bogs" are very dangerous, and make it unsafe to go out shooting alone. What with the talking and laughing, we

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never got a shot at the ducks, but eventually managed to get three teal and a bird I never saw before, a pochard or dun bird (the latter name from the color of its eye). For culinary purposes it is said to be almost as good as the famous canvas-back of the United States; but never having eaten the latter I cannot speak from experience. Before leaving the marsh on our way home, we picked up a couple of moor hens, something like the coot out here. Having made up our minds to be back home in time for the "flight shooting," we did not waste much time. Though we had a chance of killing a couple of hares, we would not shoot, as they are preserved for coursing. We made up by shooting three couple of snipe and a couple of golden plover on the way back.

Leaving our game bags at the house, we hurried up to the top of the hill at the back of the village to be in time for the evening shooting, and took our stations waiting for the ducks, which come over this hill in hundreds from the large lakes, to feed in the meadows below. To be a good night for this sport, the wind should be blowing dead against the ducks, which will make them come over at a reasonable height, whereas on a still night they are so high that with so little light you are unable to see them. To my mind this is by far the hardest kind of shooting there is, for in the first place it is hard to see the bird, and then it is harder still to judge the distance, though if you can see the bird the chances are it is well within shot. And again, every now and then you get a severe fright by a flock of teal "swishing" by within five yards, and flying so close to the ground that it is impossible to see them. Still, if it is the hardest, it is the most exciting shooting one can have, though it lasts far too short a time—half to three-quarters of an hour at the outside.

On this particular evening we had a fairly good wind-up to our day, bagging four ducks, three widgeon and a teal, and losing one duck which we heard fall behind us. So ended an enjoyable sporting day, as all days of that description are in Ireland. The reason for this is simple enough, it lies in the variety of birds you come across and may have the chance of bagging. I will not go so far as to say that this was the worst day I ever had in that country,

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blood pure.**

but certainly it was a long way from being the best. In conclusion, I would give one more piece of advice to all who wish to be sportsmen in the true sense of the word—not pot hunters. Give an hour every now and then to reading good books as to the habits and customs of all things that you are likely to shoot at. I grant you one pound of practice is worth a ton of theory, but still, one who starts with even a slight theoretical knowledge, and by careful practical research improves that knowledge, will in the end be in a far better position than one who, though he has lived in the woods all his life, simply carries his gun to fill his pot.

In this article on shooting I have endeavored to teach the young idea “how to shoot,” not only theoretically, but also practically. I know there are many things I have missed, and before closing I will try and place them. Firstly, I must put before you that it is wrong to shoot JEALOUSLY, for in doing so you will not only offend your companion, but you will most likely injure your own shooting by being in too great a hurry to shoot first. When you feel sure of having hit a bird, never take your eye off it whilst it is possible to see it, for you never know when it will fall. Very often, if it is hit in the head or spine, it will fly off a short distance as if nothing was the matter, and then go up some height in the air and fall stone dead,—99 times out of a 100 you will find it ON ITS BACK. As nature has endowed birds with wings, it is, to say the least, far more sportsman-like to allow them to use them, and shoot them flying and not sitting; though I have no doubt that there are those in this town who would act as the Frenchman, who, when out pheasant shooting in England, upon being cautioned by a friend not to make such a FAUX PAS as to shoot one of the birds whilst running in front of him, remarked, knowingly: “Non ! Non ! My dear sars, I will not do that, I will wait till he do stop !” Remember always to see that your gun is properly cleaned, more especially if you have been shooting near salt water.

Most young shooters having put up birds out of range find great difficulty in marking them down, or rather in marking them down sufficiently well to be able to put them up again. In the first place some point should be noted past which you think the birds dropped, and another straight behind you; this will give the direction. As regards

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distance, it is nearly safe to say that the bird has pitched farther away than you thought. In any case, never think the bird has pitched till you see him stop in his flight and flap his wings; which all birds must do before they can alight on the ground.

Above I have written regarding looking after and trying to gather wounded birds; but do not commit that awful sin of going to look for birds you know in your heart you have never touched. I fancy I can hear some one say "a man would never be such a maniac as that; what on earth would he do it for?" And I answer there are hundreds that do it; and the reason is that they do not want their companions to think that they have missed, and so make up a lie, and waste half an hour's valuable time, all because they have not the common honesty to own to a miss.

As I have tried to point out, there is a vast difference between practical shooting and theoretical shooting—or, rather, "aiming." There is in reality very little difference between the paces of birds; though the larger birds seem to fly slower; yet a duck, for instance, flies as fast, if not faster, than one of our ordinary beach birds; and, to carry my argument still further, a wild goose, or, still better, a wild swan will out-fly all its smaller brethren. As regards this matter of pace, there is one bird that I personally think flies with a greater velocity than any bird of corresponding weight, which is the grouse when driven for shooting purposes. Time after time this bird has been proved to compass a distance of three miles at the rate of 70 miles per hour. Now, theoretically, what chance has one of killing a bird going at this pace? It is perfectly absurd for any man however good shot he may be, to give his advice in print. The truth is, that a man who kills these birds does it intuitively, and if asked why or how, will reply, "Well, I cover the bird, give the gun a tip, and there it is, 'don't you know!'" And that is just where it is: it simply being that the eye and the hand go together,

It is all very well for a first-class shot like Sir Ralph Payne Galway, who has been writing letters on shooting in *The Field*, to tell "young shooters" they must fire so many feet or yards in front of a bird; but he has left out one main factor in his instructions,

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namely, how they are to measure that same distance,—again, in his letters, though addressed solely to “young shooters,” I feel confident that should he read this remark he will agree with me that the diagrams relating to the flight of birds are far too theoretical for the purpose intended.

Has the young shooter ever taken into consideration the time that elapses between the fall of the hammer and the exit of the shot from the muzzle ; and, again, between the resolve on his part to pull the trigger and its actual accomplishment ? Now, putting it at the hundredth part of a second in each case, a bird flying at the rate of forty miles an hour will have flown about 14 inches after the aim of the shooter has been taken ; the killing of this bird is a conclusive proof that not only did the shooter take aim, but also that the eye and hand worked together in giving that little swing to the gun, coinciding with the speed of the bird. It must be borne in mind that I am speaking now of a quick shot : how much more finely must the distance be calculated by one who dwells on his aim ?

I will—I trust for the good of the public at large—once more refer to the use of guns with safety, by giving a few golden rules :—When shooting with a stranger, always get on his right side, as a gun is more often pointed to the left than to the right when being carried. Bear in mind it is not always from wanton stupidity—such as getting over a fence with the muzzle pointed straight at the back of your companion, or pointing the gun in joke—that accidents happen, unless with downright idiots, who should shoot together, with a view to their speedy mutual extermination. It is more often the case in the excitement of the shooter, who, in his anxiety to kill game, forgets to notice his companion.

Always treat a gun as if loaded and at full cock.

Though you may be a careful shot yourself, always keep a sharp eye on your brother sportsman, so as to give a wide berth to those who flourish guns about like watering-pots.

Before commencing shooting always look through the harrels, and also do so if a mis-fire occurs.

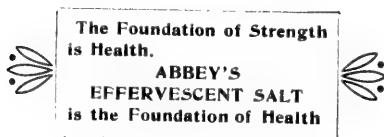
Finally, strive to not only have the reputation of being a “good shot,” but more especially

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that of being an undeniably safe one : for all shooters will agree with me that the number of shots one sees fired in a year that *might* have been dangerous, and *ought* to have worked mischief, are far more numerous than pleasant.

I trust these few remarks may induce my readers to become "safe shots," when they will stand far more chances of invites to prosecute the sport they love.

To those of my readers who are fond of duck shooting, there is no better place to go within easy distance of Montreal than from Sorel to Three Rivers, and I can strongly advise brother sportsmen to make the Dufresne Hotel at Three Rivers their headquarters. Mr. Dufresne is that god-send to sportsmen—a man who will listen to hard-luck stories.



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FOOTBALL.



IN the following I cannot lay claim to much originality of subject matter in the work, since nearly everything that there is to be said about the game of Football has been said before, still I trust that these remarks on practical lines may prove of interest.

I have pre-supposed on the part of my readers an elementary acquaintance with the game, so have given no definition of the game itself, and have eschewed all reference to the ancient history of the game, and simply start with the

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAY.

We need not pause long to discuss the much-abused shoving matches of the days when twenty aside were played. They have gone never to return, regretted by none, unless perhaps by the modern half-back when he dreams of the glorious chances he would have if the forwards, and especially the wing-players, would only continue to entangle themselves as inextricably as of yore. In justice, however, to the players of that day, we may observe that they held their proper place in the evolution of the game.

The change from twenty to fifteen aside, which was started by club secretaries because of the difficulty of putting twenty men into the field, was officially adopted in 1877, at the request of Scotland. A more open style of play naturally followed, which was so much appreciated that the laws were soon altered to suit it by insisting on the ball being put down *immediately* it was held; and this led to the increase in the number of three-quarter-backs, first from one to two, with two full-backs, and then to three, with one full-back—in other words, three-quarter-back became the main line of defence against the rush of opposing forwards. Meanwhile the advantages of passing the ball were

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becoming apparent, and a system of short passing, amongst the forwards only, was brought to a considerable pitch of perfection by a few clubs.

Many clubs adopted the passing game without fully understanding the principles of it, and certainly without understanding that it goes hand in hand with the dribbling game, and that to have acquired the first without the second is at best only half the battle, and is likely to end in total defeat.

The splendid possibilities in the way of combination and of passing with the feet afforded by the dribbling game have never yet, so far as we are aware, been fully worked out. This development of the play we hope to see taken in hand by some competent team and brought to a state of perfection in the near future.

CAPTAINCY.

It is not perhaps fully appreciated as yet that the captain of a football team holds just as difficult and responsible a post as the captain of a cricket team. The same sort of qualities are required for both, and both get in the course of a match those openings for the display of generalship which often decide the match. A bad captain misses the opportunities; a good one seizes them in one game no less than the other. In both games good captains are rare: but more so in football than in cricket, because good cricket has been played so much longer than good football, that the traditional knowledge of the game, as it should be played, is more widespread. In Rugby football, at any rate, the really great captains are few and far between.

Since, however, it is a *sine qua non* that he should be as well versed in the theory as in the practice of the game, we must endeavor to point out the necessary qualifications for any one who means to become a first-rate captain. To begin with, he should know all the rules by heart—not only the rules of play, but also

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the rules governing umpires and referees, because with him lies the duty of making any necessary appeals and of sternly repressing all unwarrantable appeals on the part of his men. If this elementary precaution was taken by all captains

we might hope to see less of the bickering and wrangling which are still far too prevalent at the present time.

After thoroughly mastering all the laws, our captain must next make up his mind as to what style of play he means his team to adopt, and by personal instruction, both on the field of play and off it, he must see that his men fully understand that style and carry it out in all its details. Of course his selection of a style may be limited by the traditions of his club, if those traditions are sound, in which case he will be wise not to attempt more than the introduction of any modifications which seem to him necessary; or again by the capacity of the men at his disposal. It is his business to get out of his men absolutely all that they are worth, and a great deal may be done by skilful education, with what looks like poor material at the start; but it is no use to adopt a style for which his men are physically unsuited.

And here we may remark that it is of the utmost importance that the captain should have the unfettered selection of his team whenever such a course is possible.

Granted, then, that the captain's power is practically absolute, after deciding on what is to be the dominant style of his team, he must see that they are able to adapt their style to any emergencies that arise owing to variations in the weather, or the strength and style of teams opposed to him. If, for instance, he has adopted the long-passing game he will probably find it useless in wet weather, and must make his men dribble instead. If he is playing four three-quarters and finds that his eight forwards are swamped by the opposing nine, he must make his extra three-quarter go forward. If, when playing against a strong wind, he finds his backs unable to check the attack of his opponents, he may sometimes be justified in playing an extra man behind for the time, provided that the forwards can spare the man; or, if his team are accustomed to play an offensive game, he may have to make them adopt defensive tactics, such as keeping the ball tight in the scrummage, or punting it constantly into touch for a while; but we hope that no captain will ever make his team adopt the tight game as their regular style of play. The object of the game is not merely to avoid being beaten, but to win the match, and to

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get as much enjoyment out of the process as possible. Defensive tactics are quite justifiable in special cases, but we should be very sorry to be a member—whether forward or behind—of a team whose ambition was to make a draw of every match, or at most to win by a dropped goal with luck.

It will thus be seen that, as the captain has to use his eyes no less than his head, it is better, if possible, that he should play behind the scrummage. Any place behind is fairly good, but centre three-quarters is undoubtedly the best spot from which to control the game. If he is playing forward he must either damage the scrummage by keeping his head up, or he must miss many of the points which he ought to see.

Finally, the more autocratic the captain is the better, provided that he has tact enough to keep on good terms with his men. He must repress sternly all attempts at "gallery" or illegitimate play, and reprimand any player guilty of egregious blunders in the open game, though as a general rule he had better reserve his expostulations until the game is over. If the offenders prove incorrigible, he must give their places to others more amenable to instruction.

FULL-BACK.

We will now take the positions on the field in order, beginning with the last line of defence. Full-back is an essentially defensive post, and probably for that reason good ones are rare. There is undoubtedly more enjoyment to be got out of playing three-quarters than out of watching the game with perhaps very little to do at full back; and the worst of it is that, the better the team in front of you is, the less you will get to do, because a good team does not call on the last line of defence so often as a weaker one. But for all that the post is one of the utmost importance, even in the best team, since no team can hope to keep its opponents and the ball always in front of their three-quarters; and whenever the full-back is called upon to act, everything depends on him. This fact ought to be sufficient to induce men to take to the post if they have the two necessary qualifications, viz., good tackling and good kicking powers, especially as they have more chance of coming to the front as full-backs than as three-

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quarters, of whom there are already crowds in the field. If a captain has not got a full-back ready made in his team, the best thing he can do is to get the most likely of his three-quarters for the work to take the post, and then to keep careful watch that he does not let his old habits as a three-quarter get the better of him in his new position. Such a man would be especially liable to the common fault of coming too far up the ground. A full-back must always stand far enough back to be able to receive the ball without having to turn round and run after it, at the same time he must not stand so far back that he has to run up to get it after it has pitched, since either of these positions allows time for the opponent's forwards to come up to him before he has got in his kick. A very little practice will teach him the right position. After he has learnt where to stand, he must then learn to make sure of catching the ball without "muffing" it; for if he fumbles it at all, he is held to have played the ball, and he thereby puts on-side any forwards who have followed up off-side, and who are bound to give him five yards clear if he catches it true.

A recent alteration in the laws has added a new danger to fumbling on the part of backs; for if they touch the ball and then let it cross the goal line, they are held to have passed the ball across their own goal line, in which case the opponents have a right to a scrummage at the spot where they touched it, unless they can bring it out without making it dead. Of course they must also beware of kicking or carrying the ball across their own goal line at all times, or the same penalty is incurred.

Granted, then, that our full-back has learnt where to stand and how to catch the ball clean, the next thing that he has to make sure of is getting his kick—either a punt or a drop—into touch as far down the ground as he can. He must find out by experience how far he can make sure of kicking in various states of the wind, and aim for touch at that distance; but he should always bear in mind that he must send it into touch at all costs, as that means so much ground gained for his side for the next line out; whereas if it pitch in the field of play, his own men are all off-side and his opponents are free to resume the attack at once. The only exception to this rule is,

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if he is near enough to his opponent's goal to try a drop at goal, in which case he should always do so, if he has a clear chance. Goals have often been scored in this manner ; but still more often the chance is lost, though one might fairly expect the back to look out for what is practically his only opening for offensive play.

By far the hardest part of a full-back's work consists in receiving the man with the ball. If he lets only the ball pass him, it is still possible for him to get out of the difficulty ; but if he lets the man with the ball pass him, it is all up with his side, for the time, at all events.

There is one elementary rule about tackling under all circumstances, and that is, to go at your man low—to aim at the hips and not at the shoulder. In the latter case the tackler can always be shoved and the try is a certainty ; in the former case, provided the tackler knows the right moment to go for his man, he is certain to hold him and the ball. But how he knows the right moment is a mystery which we have never been able to understand. We can only suppose that it comes by instinct to some and not to others. It is easy enough to learn to tackle as a forward, where you can go at your man with a rush, but it is quite another matter to stand the last man on your side, and to feel that you must bring the runner down at all costs. Some backs seem to exercise a sort of fascination over you, and you feel bound to run into their clutches.

The only way to elude such a tackler is by passing just as you come to him, unless you have the power of turning when going at full speed.

If a captain has to choose for his full-back between a good tackler and a good kick, we should certainly recommend him to take the good tackler—a bad tackler will never become a good one, playing at full-back ; whereas the worst kick in the world can learn to punt respectably, and punting is an art which is not studied nearly as much as it should be by backs—it is easy to learn, and is much safer in wet weather than drop-kicking. If a team possesses a back who is both a good tackler and a good kick, they start every game with a feeling of confidence, which, of itself, goes a long way

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towards victory ; it is for this reason that we have tried to show that the importance of the post can hardly be over-estimated.

THREE-QUARTER-BACK.

Coming next to the three-quarter-backs, the captain has to settle how many of them he means to play. Since the introduction of the open passing game the orthodox number has been three. Before coming to a decision on this knotty question, the captain must duly consider the *pros* and *cons* of the case ; in all ordinary cases three three-quarters ought to be able to defend their line ; it is therefore to strengthen the attack rather than the defence that a fourth is played, consequently he must be given plenty to do if his place is to be justified. Now, in a great many teams—in many even of the first rank—even the three-quarters do not get nearly enough work given them ; in such teams, then, it would be simple madness to have a fourth. In other words, the fourth three-quarter would be worse than useless unless the whole team, and especially the half-backs and the other three-quarters have worked up a system of passing sufficiently reliable and accurate to make sure of the ball reaching him pretty often, otherwise he will play the part of a spectator during the game when he might be doing good service in the ranks or the forwards.

Supposing that only three are played, the next question to be decided is, which of them to put in the centre, and which on the wings. In our opinion, the best player of the three should always be in the centre—mere sprinters will do for the wings, if nothing better can be secured ; but the centre must have a head on his shoulders, as he is the man who has not only to bear the brunt of the attack, but also to give the wings their openings, and sometimes to win the match himself by dropping a goal. To fulfil these requirements he must throw himself without hesitation on to the ball at the feet of the opponent's forwards when they are dribbling down upon him—a task which is not half so difficult as it looks, if done fearlessly. He must be equally good at taking and giving a pass, that is to say, he must always place himself on the open-field side of the scrum-mage and must warn the half-backs of his whereabouts by calling. The moment he receives the ball he must make for the open,

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and, before he is tackled, pass on to the wing, who is still further in the open, and then back him up to receive the ball again just before the wing is tackled, and so on until the ball is safely landed over the goal line, as it should be, if the passing is done with precision. Lastly, he must be quick at taking his drop, for as he starts much nearer the forwards than the full-back, he will have to kick from much more difficult positions. In deciding when to kick and when to pass, he will be guided principally by the position of the players on the field. If he sees a good opening for a series of passes, he should take it in preference to kicking into touch, as being more likely to lead to an immediate score. If, on the other hand, his side is being pressed, from his position in the field he will gain more ground than even a full-back can for his side by a long kick into touch.

In wing three-quarters, pace is the first essential, because they should be the first try-getters in the team. Their principal work consists of getting into position in the open for receiving passes from the centre, and sometimes direct from the halves, and then running as hard as they can run. In this way sprinters, pure and simple, have often earned for themselves great reputations; but a real player will make much more out of the post than the best sprinter. He will not allow himself to be run into touch or tackled by the last of his opponents, as the sprinter so often does, but will pass back again whilst still engaging the attention of that last man, and so make a try a certainty for his side. Many a glorious chance of winning a match has been thrown away by wings holding on to the ball just too long, in the hopes of getting through themselves.

Moreover, a wing's work does not lie solely in scoring tries, he has also to stop his opponents from getting through the main line of defence, and this calls for no mean tackling powers, as any runner who reaches that line will by that time be going at his best pace, and will have in reserve the power of passing or of pretending to pass. The wings should therefore keep well out, so as to cover the ground between the centre and the touch-line, and if they fail to stop the ball as well as the man, should at once go at full pace to the help of the full back who may find himself in a similar difficulty.

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In any crisis it is always the duty of one of the three-quarters to go to the help of the full-back, and it is also their duty to mark and watch carefully any specially dangerous man amongst the opponents' three-quarters. The three-quarters undoubtedly have the best of the fun in the modern game, and in return it is their business to win the match either directly or indirectly. But they have a fair right to complain if, as is so often the case, their powers are not called into play owing to insufficient "feeding" on the part of the half-backs.

FORWARD.

The work of a forward can be suitably divided into two branches, play in the open and play in the scrummage. It is given to few—very few—to be equally good at both; but as every player, however good he may be in the open, has to go into scrummages whether he likes it or not, he can at least learn not to spoil the play of the genuine scrummagers; and as every scrummager has to make a show in the open, he can learn to follow up and to tackle, even if nature has not intended him to shine in the finer arts of passing and dribbling.

It is only by working on these lines that a captain can hope to overcome the great difficulty of settling what number of each class to have in his team. If he has good men behind, including a pair of halves who know how to pass, he can afford to increase the number of forwards for open play, provided always that he retains a modicum of clever scrummagers who know how to bring the ball out to advantage. If his halves are no good at passing, he has to trust to his forwards to make the game loose, and he should then aim at a team that can break away in a body with the ball at their feet—perhaps the most irresistible form of attack that has yet been devised. If neither his halves nor his forwards can be taught to make it loose, then he and his three-quarters cannot hope for anything better than a dull season's play, for it is an axiom that cannot be insisted upon too often, that fast open play constitutes real football, the tight game being strictly limited to the crises of the game.

Supposing, first, that the passing game is adopted, forwards must remember that a series of passes is hardly ever brought to a

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successful issue without their aid. It is true that the half-back will start the passing whilst the scrummage is still breaking up, but directly they can free themselves from the scrummage, it is their business to spread out over the ground at some distance from one another, so as to be ready to take up the passing as soon as the three-quarter gets into difficulties with his opponents.

The grand secret of good passing lies in accurate backing up—the constant passing forward, which is such a nuisance at the present day, is almost invariably the fault of the backer-up. The holder of the ball is bound to pass it into his hands, and if he is only a foot too far forward the game has to be interrupted; he must, therefore, take the greatest care not to get quite level with the runner, and before he calls for a pass he must take equal care to see that he is in a better position to make headway than the man in possession. Bad passing is entirely due to the neglect of these axioms. Men get an idea into their heads that they ought to pass at all costs, and that they have a right to call for a pass in any position. In the nature of things there must always be a more or less open course on one side or the other of a runner, and it is in a line with that course that the backer-up should keep; whilst another player must do the same for him as soon as he gets possession of the ball. We have already warned him not to get too far forward; it is equally important that he should not keep far behind, as a long pass back is so much ground lost, which has to be made up again before anything is gained. In ideal passing you may zigzag as much as you please, provided that the general direction is towards the opponents' goal.

If the backing-up is systematically worked, the passing game is quite irresistible in fine weather, but it suffers from the serious disadvantage that it is liable to break down in wet weather or on greasy ground. Under such circumstances it is very difficult to catch the ball when passed, and it is to meet this case that every team which plays the passing game should always be able to dribble; but it is not enough to have one or two good dribblers in the team; for dribbling to be effective there must be combination. By all means let the best dribbler start the ball, if possible, but he must be backed up

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by all the rest of the forwards in fairly close order, ready to take command of the ball if perchance the leader oversteps it, or if he has to pass it to one side in order to circumvent an opposing back. In this way the ball can be rushed right up to the goal line, but it should be picked up a few yards before the line, so as to make sure of scoring a try.

This is dribbling as it is at present understood ; but we can see no reason why a team should not take a lesson from the Association game in this matter, and advance in open line, passing right across the ground when necessary. We admit at once that it is far more difficult to dribble with our oval ball than with their round one ; but then we have nine forwards as against their five, and we can cross the line at any point instead of only between the goal-posts. Moreover, under our off-side laws, it is perfectly legal to pass forward with the foot, provided that the backer-up keeps on-side until the ball has been kicked. On the few isolated occasions when we have seen this plan adopted, the opposing backs were so completely nonplused, that we should confidently predict success for any team which adopted it as a system.

A few years ago a proposal was made, in the interests of dribbling, to change the Rugby ball into a round one. It was withdrawn in deference to the opinion of old players, who held that the oval shape was essential to long drop-kicking, which has always been one of the main features of the Rugby game ; but if at any time in the future the change is adopted, we very much doubt whether the passing game, despite its attractions, will hold its own against dribbling. As matters stand now it reigns so supreme that, with a few exceptions, players need very little exhortation to pass ; a captain has rather to see that it is not overdone. From the spectator's point of view its popularity is no doubt due to the fact that it affords unlimited scope for combination between the backs and forwards ; good combined play being always prettier to watch than the selfish feats of individuals.

Turning now to the other great branch of forward play, namely, scrummage work, it must not for a moment be supposed that shoving is all that is wanted. It is a great thing no doubt to get the first shove, and

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for that reason forwards cannot be too quick in packing; but scrummage work has been of late years reduced to such a science that mere shoving will be of very little avail against a team of skilled scrummagers. Most teams have recognized leaders in the scrummage, who keep careful watch over the whereabouts of the ball; the usual plan nowadays being to keep it just behind the first row of legs, so as to retain command of it until the opponents have been worked off it to one side or the other, when with a final effort the scrummage is "screwed" or "swung," and the team breaks away with the ball at their feet.

It is not sufficient for a team to be able to screw to one side only, they should be ready to take the line of least resistance, and to ensure this it is essential that all players should have their heads down in order to see for themselves in which direction they are to push, and because they can push with much greater force in that position than when standing up. The great points in scrummage-swinging are then to get command of the ball and to keep it, and for all to push in the same direction. It is no use trying to screw as long as your opponents have command of the ball. You must then use your feet to secure it for yourselves, and devote your energies to stopping your opponents from screwing you. It is for this purpose that a team must contain enough honest workers to be able to hold the scrummage; for if your opponents rush the scrummages, the play of your backs is discounted, and you are extremely likely to be beaten. If the forwards find that they cannot take the ball out themselves, they must watch for a good opportunity of letting it out to their half-backs; and unless they are near their own goal, or unless they know that their opponents' backs are much stronger than their own, they should try to get it out in one way or the other as soon as may be. Long scrummages are at all times uninteresting, and when near the opponents' goal are distinctly bad play. For many years there was a feeling against "heeling out," but we have never been able to understand why it should be wrong to pass back with the foot when it is admitted to be right to pass back with the hand.

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the Appetite.

It may perhaps be considered that we have already sketched out sufficient work to occupy most of a forward's time; but there still

remain the duties of tackling any and every opponent who happens to be in possession of the ball, of following up every kick-off and kick-out, and of marking his man at every line-out, with which to fill up his spare moments. It will thus be inferred that no one can hope to be a good forward who is not in good training. We are no advocates for stopping a man's beer or his pipe, we do not want the training of an athlete preparing for a race, but we do hold it to be the imperative duty of every member of every team, however humble, to keep in good condition. No doubt some men are much more favorably situated than others for getting regular exercise; but every man can find time to use light dumb-bells and clubs, to indulge in an occasional bout of boxing and wrestling, and to go for a sharp walk varied by occasional sprints in the evening after his work. We probably all know only too well the inevitable result of neglecting these simple measures. As the game proceeds the forwards become slow at packing, slower still at coming round to the back of the scrummage; the following up and the tackling become slack, and your stalwarts find themselves beaten by men who are their inferiors in every point of physique, and, it may be, of skill in the game.

THE REFEREE.

The referee is of comparatively modern growth in the Rugby game; but his powers have been increased so steadily year by year that it is now no exaggeration to say that on him more than on any single individual depends our enjoyment of a match. A few bad decisions by the referee are enough to spoil the game for players and spectators alike. From many points of view the post is a thankless one; and it certainly demands no small degree of love for the game on the part of players to make them turn out week after week to officiate for teams who are none too prone to take a charitable view of their best endeavors to be prompt and impartial in their decisions.

Any man who is willing to undertake the responsibilities of a referee must first be certain that he knows all the laws down to their minutest details, and the interpretation of them in all their bearings. He will be wise to carry a rule-book in his pocket, both for the purpose of refreshing his own memory before the match begins, and of convincing

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any captain who questions his interpretations on the field. We hold that every player should read up the laws before each season, but that a referee should study them before every match. Novel and unexpected points arise in almost every game, and it is only by constant study that a referee can hope to be prompt with his decisions ; and unless a decision is given promptly it loses half its effect.

The referee must next realize that considerable activity is required in order to keep level with the ball throughout the game. A referee who strolls after the game in an ulster is quite incompetent to give a decision on any fine point which may arise in the distance. He should always appear in light marching order, wearing a cap rather than a hat, and he must provide against a possible wetting by bringing a change of clothes with him ; if he does his duty well, there is not the slightest fear of his taking a chill during the progress of the game.

As a general rule, the referee should keep in a line between the two sets of goal posts, as far as is practicable ; if he finds that the direction of the game is forcing him towards either of the two touch-lines, he must move around to the other side of the next scrummage that is formed, so as not to lose his vantage-ground for judging dropped goals, which cannot be gauged accurately from the sides, and so as to be ready to reach, at the shortest notice, any part of the ground where a sudden move of the game may call for his presence.

Until the day comes when umpires have been turned into linesmen, the referee has not only to watch the play but also to watch the umpires' flags ; for, excepting in a few cases specially provided for in the laws, he cannot grant a claim without at least one of their flags being raised. It is worth his while to see that the flags are of a suitable color, white being far the best, because it is very hard to see a dark flag against the line of spectators at a moment's notice. He should also see that the whistle is one which will carry all over the ground, and he should always blow his hardest. Nothing is more irritating than a feeble whistle.

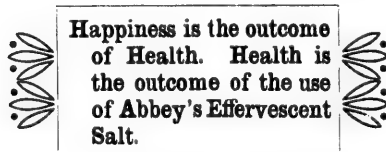
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Practical experience has perhaps made us dwell more strongly on the drawbacks

than on the pleasures of refereeing ; but referees must not forget that they can always rely on the unfaltering support of the Rugby Union Committee, which is fully alive to the difficulties of the work, and which has shown its anxiety to make things easy for them by passing special laws for their guidance and protection, laws to which we attribute largely the undeniable growth of the feeling that a football referee has a right to expect as good treatment as a cricket umpire. The one is as liable to make mistakes as the other. They only undertake to act up to the best of their ability, and, having done so, both have an equal claim to respect for their decisions, whether right or wrong. In football, as in everything else, men must learn to stand by their luck without grumbling.

And now, one word of warning before I close this chapter—one question to those players who hold that football is the greatest of all games. If one of you owned the finest dog which could be placed on a show bench, would you, either with *malice prepense* or in a milder fit of rage, illtreat that animal to such an extent as to make it an eyesore for spectators ?

So with your champion game ; would you, as was done last season, by breaking laws both human and divine, so drag football through the mire as to make the game the target for the finger of scorn, and yourselves the recipients of censure from all right-thinking people ? *Verb. sap.*



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HOCKEY.



IT is a matter of great difficulty to trace the history of the game of hockey. It is probably as old a game, in one or other of its numerous varieties, as any of those played with a ball, and it is well known to have existed in a crude form for centuries in Ireland, where under the name of "Hurley" it has been regarded as the national game. The game used also to be played in Scotland under the name of "Shinty," whilst now played on the ice it is the favorite winter game of the youth of Canada.

Hockey, like all other vigorous games, has its enemies on the score of supposed danger, but serious accidents are almost unknown. The rules of the game have been so framed as to reduce the risks to a minimum, and as long as the game is played in a proper spirit there is very little chance of players being badly hurt. The game, of course, can be made dangerous, but foul play cannot be indulged in without being readily detected, and its suppression is easy at the hands of resolute umpires who will strictly enforce the rules of the game.

Hockey at present seems the most free, of all games in Canada, seeking "gate receipts" from the semi-professional element, and it would remain entirely so were there no spurious incentives in the way of "cups" or "shields" to be played for.

There is plenty of healthy rivalry between clubs at present, a rivalry of a widely different nature to that engendered by cup competitions, and it is to be hoped that we may never see in hockey the evils that have arisen from the institution of such competitions at football. Cup ties eventually lead to professionalism, and this would prove a curse to the game that must be prevented at all costs. If the game is worth playing at all, it is worth playing purely as a game,

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and hockey will continue to flourish on its merits, without any spurious inducements which would only introduce a class of player which it is desirable to avoid.

The following hints may be of use to young players who may not have practical experience in the game :

FORWARDS.

Forwards in general should keep strictly in their places, and always try to keep the game open, which can only be done by unselfish play. They should make point of never leaving the opposing point and cover alone when they have been tackled, as they can thus prevent them from getting in a hard hit or feeding their own forwards. They must use their discretion as to charging down on a point when he is hitting, as unless they can get right up to him before he hits, they have more chance of fielding the stroke by keeping a short distance away, but they must not give him time to dribble into a good position to bring off a pass to one of his own forwards. Finally, forwards must remember that the whole secret of their strength, if it can be called a secret, lies in combination, and no amount of individual brilliancy will compensate for its absence. A clever dribbler, who will never part with the ball until it is taken from him, is of far less value to a side than a player who, though individually inferior, will do his best to play a combined game. Forwards can often materially assist their point, when hard pressed, by worrying the opposing forwards, and nothing is more discouraging to points than to see their own forwards loafing about waiting for the puck to come to them, while they themselves are doing their utmost to save their goal. Last, but not least, is the all important item of pluck. The finest back division in the world is of no use behind a set of faint-hearted forwards. It requires a good deal of pluck to charge down the hits of a pair of hard-hitting backs, but it has to be done, and forwards must not shrink it. They must keep going their hardest right up to the sound of the whistle, and always

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remember that a game is never lost till it is won. Matches could be quoted in which a team has been several goals behind up to the last ten minutes, and has saved the game by making a draw

or even winning, solely because they have stuck to it with determination, instead of feebly "chucking" it.

COVER POINT.

The cover point is an important element in the team, being concerned equally in the attack and defence. He is perhaps, the hardest worked man in the team, if he does his work properly, so he must be well endowed with staying powers. He has to follow up his forwards closely when attacking; and, at the same time, he has to fall back directly his own forwards lose the ball, so as to be ready to break up the passing of his opponents, if he has not succeeded in intercepting the ball before it gets to him. The great value of a good cover lies in his ability to break up passing, either by intercepting the passes himself or by forcing his opponent to pass in such a way that the point behind him can get the puck. When he has got the puck, his object must be to get rid of it as soon as he can, and to the best advantage of his side, by feeding the forward he considers to be in the best position for starting an attack. From his position he can feed either wing, and he must consequently give each its fair share of work. When his forwards are in, or close to their opponents' circle, he must be on the alert to place the puck as well as he can for a shot by any forward he sees in a good position, and in this case he should always have his eye on the two outside men. A quick pass to either of them often finds them unmarked, and gives them a chance for a clear side-shot. Of course his first aim is to mark the opposing centre forward, and he must make it his business never to let him have a clear opening to get away. If a good centre forward is carefully "shadowed" by the cover, it is wonderful what effect this has on breaking up the combination of the whole of the forwards. A cover has more freedom as to his movements than any other player on the field. He must all the more be careful not to wander out of his place, as this error is often attended with fatal results when near his own goal.

It will thus be seen that the chief requirements for a good cover are pace and staying power. He may have to sprint half the length of the ground several times in succession without touching the puck, but he must never give in. By always falling back when he

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has been passed, he may often slip in when the point has been beaten, and save the downfall of his goal. Covers must be genuine hard workers, with no weakness for showy play. Both point and forwards are largely dependent upon him, and a sound cover goes a long way towards the making of a good team.

POINT.

Point forms the last active line of defence, so the first requirement in his play is that he should be a steady player and liable to make as few mistakes as possible. A good point will never lose his head, even when the attack is raging round his own goal. He must never leave anything to chance, but should make as sure as he can of each stroke before he attempts it. He should always stop the puck if he can before hitting it, in preference to taking it on the run, but he has not always time to do this, so that it is necessary that he should have an accurate eye, and be able to hit in any position in an emergency. His game so far resembles that of a cover that he must get rid of the puck as soon as he can, and a point must never, under any circumstances, indulge in dribbling. He must be able to hit hard on occasions; but hard hitting is overdone even among good players, and effectually spoils a game. In clearing his own goal, a back may hit his hardest, but he should not hit straight down the line, as the puck only goes to the opposing backs, to be at once returned. Instead of this he should try to hit into touch, and the further down the line he can do this, without risking the chance of the puck being fielded, the better. The relief afforded by a well-directed stroke of this kind is of the greatest value. It is just as much the duty of a point to feed his forwards as of a cover, and when he is too hampered to get in his hit he can often pass to the cover in front of him, who in turn can feed the forwards. In stopping a combined rush of forwards, a point can either intercept the passes, in which case he has no difficulty in getting his hit afterwards, or he can tackle a forward directly he has taken a pass. Pace is, of course, a valuable attribute in any player, be he forward or point, but it is not so essential in a point as in a cover. If he has pace, he can play close up behind his cover, and so smother a bout of passing before the forwards have got into their

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stride. Passing is more easily broken up in this way, and if they fail to stop a run at the first attempt, both cover and point can get back for a second attempt before the forwards have had time to get dangerous. If, however, a point is deficient in pace, he must be content with playing a more strictly defensive game. He must keep farther back behind the cover, and not dash in unless he is sure of support from the cover. Forwards who have passed a cover cannot go so fast when they know there is a point waiting for them, and this circumstance gives the cover time to recover himself and make another attempt at stopping them before they have reached the point. There must never be any hesitation about a point's play, whether he is fast or slow. He must carefully watch for his opportunity, and when he sees it, make up his mind at once and go straight for the puck. Hesitation means defeat, and if he makes a mistake, he must not lose a moment in trying to retrieve it. At the same time, he avoids hampering his goal-keeper and enables him to have a clear view of the puck, which is a most important matter for a point to bear in mind. When the play is near his own goal he must keep well in front of goal, and must leave the outside men to his cover, or he will seriously weaken the defence.

The combination in defence which can so greatly strengthen a back division already strong as individual players, has not yet been developed to the extent that might have been expected. There is nearly as much room for combination among backs as among forwards, though it may not be so apparent. They should always be supporting one another. There should be a thorough understanding between point and cover. There is yet to be seen in hockey, a good combination of back play, and there is no reason why it should not be achieved. When this combination has been developed, forwards will find goal-getting a matter of much greater difficulty than it is at present.

THE GOAL-KEEPER.

This is without question the most unenviable position to occupy, yet, at the same time, one of the most important. It is usually the goal-keeper's fate to get chilled to the bone, and then he has to cheerfully interpose any part of himself between the puck and

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its destination. Few people, when blaming the goal-keeper for the result of the match, realise the hardships of his position; he should not be too severely judged for his shortcomings. The first thing a goal-keeper should do is to take every means in his power to keep himself warm, as this will make him far more capable of doing what is required of him. He must be very quick on his feet and never take his eyes off the puck when near his own goal. He should stand just in front of the goal line and quite clear of it, so that there may be no doubt as to whether a shot has been stopped before it has crossed the goal line. Shots along the ground are best stopped with the feet, as less time is lost in getting the puck away. It goes without saying that he must get the puck away with the utmost rapidity, and he should never hit it straight in front of him, but always get it away to the side and clear of any opponent. If he has not time to hit the puck, he must kick it away, and when severely pressed, should not hesitate to hit or kick it behind his own goal line and so concede a corner, rather than run the risk of having the puck rushed through after he has stopped it. To deal with side shots he should stand on the side of the goal from which the shot is coming, as he thus covers more of the space available for shooting at, and he will find these shots coming at an angle the most difficult to save. If his view of the puck is impeded by one of his own side, he should at once call out to the offender, as it is most important that he should never lose sight of the puck. He must be a good judge of distance and of the pace at which the puck is travelling, so that he may know whether by running out of goal, he can get to the puck before an opponent, but he must never do this unless he feels certain of getting the puck. He should leave to the point all the hits he can reach, and should make a rule never to run out of the circle. When he does run out of goal, he must get back again as soon as he can. The knowledge that he has a good goal-keeper behind him has a great effect upon the play of the point and enables him to play with confidence.

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A goal-keeper may be recommended to wear cricket pads in preference to shin guards, as they afford protection to both ankles and knees, and this is not to be despised.

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CURLING.



CURLING would be very imperfectly presented to my readers if I were to treat it simply in its scientific aspects. Scientific it certainly is, affording scope for a display of practical acumen such as few games demand. Tradition tells of a certain Tam Pate, who flourished as a curler at the end of the last century, and who never *missed a single shot!* but ordinary curlers are not built that way. No mortal man can curl to perfection. But difficult and intricate as the game is, the beginner may soon acquire sufficient knowledge to enable him to take a respectable place in a rink. Curling may lay claim therefore to simplicity as well as to scientific skill. But neither science nor simplicity constitutes the charm of curling. This is mainly ethical.

To begin with, curling excites the utmost enthusiasm amongst its votaries. At a season of the year when nature is passing through her dull interlude, such a sport strengthens the body and cheers the mind. No sybarite can be a curler. The game demands activity, hardihood, endurance, and such ardor as makes a man forget everything in his intense devotion to the sport; and in return it imparts health and happiness to its followers. The proverbial keenness of the curler is a phase of this enthusiasm. Another excellent feature of the game is the absence of betting, *save* occasionally for a stake, which consists of coal or flour for distribution among the poor, and therefore curling is identified with benevolence, and often the hearts of the poor have been gladdened by the bonspiel. But the best and most characteristic feature of this sport is the sociality which it develops. Liberty, equality, fraternity, are truly its watchwords. On the ice all divisions and differences, caused by rank, riches, religion, politics, or anything else, may be said to disappear.

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Landlord and tenant, clergyman and artizan, merchant and mechanic, can meet together in social brotherhood, forgetting for the time all distinction save that of curling skill. Add to this the inevitable humor which is one of its concomitants, and some idea may be formed of a game which, in Scotland most certainly, and in Canada most likely, is by far the most popular of ice sports.

As far back as 1715 it was said :

“ To Curle on the ice does greatly please,
Being a Manly Scottish exercise ;
It clears the Brains, stirs up the Native Heat,
And gives a gallant Appetite for Meat.”

Robert Burns, speaking of Tam Samson, says :

“ He was the King o’ a’ the core,
To guard or draw, or wick a bore,
Or up the rink like Jehu roar
In time o’ need.”

Of the origin of curling perhaps no more satisfactory account can be given than the tradition that Albyn Jove sent it as a gift to “Auld Daddy Scotland,” as he sat one day “bare leggit on a snawy brae,” with icicles at his snout, and crying :

“ Oh ! for a cheery, heartsome game,
To send through a’ the soul a flame,
Pit birr and smeddum in the frame
And set the bluid a-dinlin’.”

One can hardly give credence to the fact that a Scotchman, Rev. John Ramsay, writing on the game, ascribes to curling a Continental origin, from the number of Dutch or German phrases used in the play ; but it is true, nevertheless, and more remarkable still is the fact that the reverend gentleman lived to a good old age and died with his boots off. For my own part, curling seems to be most undoubtedly of Scottish origin, but in 1457 we find the Scottish Parliament prohibiting golf and football as “unprofitable sports,” no mention being made of curling, from which we may make the deduction that if the game was then in vogue it was classed with archery as a profitable sport.

“ For the morning
after the night be-
fore” use ABBEY’S
Effervescent Salt.

The earliest literary notice of the game

of curling is found in the "Muses Threnodie" (1638), where we find :

"His hats, his hoods, his balls, his bones,
His allay bowles and curling stones,
The sacred games to celebrat."

The most ancient extant specimens of curling stones are to be seen in the Macfarlane Museum, Stirling, one being dated 1511. There is a tradition that James IV of Scotland (1472-1513) was a curler, but there does not appear to be any evidence in support of this. It seems as if curling was a bond of union between Episcopalian and Covenanter, for in 1638 George Graham, Bishop of Orkney, was charged with being "*a curler on the ice on the Sabbath day*," while William Guthrie, a noted Covenanter who lived about the same date, was a keen curler.

By the end of the seventeenth century, the earlier type of curling-stone without handle had been displaced. Still greater progress was made in the course of last century. In such repute was the game held in the Scottish capital that at the beginning of the century the magistrates of Edinburgh are said to have marched in procession, headed by a band of music playing the "Curler's March," to open the sport on the North Loch.

Perhaps it is to Dr. John Cairnie (1833) that the present generation of curlers are most indebted, for in his "Essay on Curling" he gives information as to the making of artificial rinks on which curling might be had with very little frost. This system has been developed till we see the enclosed rinks of the present day. It is needless here to go into the history of the Royal Caledonian Club, which was formed in 1838, and which is the fountain head of the game. Curling seems to have found its way to Canada as far back as the beginning of the present century, irons being at the present time used instead of stones, in a great measure, though in Ontario the time-honored "stones" are still in play, the principal stone in use being the "Ailsa Craig."

It cannot be said that curling is seen at its best in our covered rinks, as when played on a frozen lake or loch of picturesque appearance, with skaters flying too and fro. The *tout ensemble* is then

The Roses of Health come
to the cheeks
through the daily use of
ABBEE'S
EFFERVESCENT SALT.

perfect. In such an article as the present, space will not allow of a dissertation on the interesting subject of the different kinds of stones ; it must suffice to give the names of some, in the order of merit given by a celebrated geologist : Burnock Water, Crawfordjohn, Ailsa Hone, Crieff Black, Carsphairn. Here in Quebec these names are only interesting as remembrances of the home of the game.

Presuming that all my readers have not only read but have also learned their rules of the game, it will be seen that the rink is in the hands of a skip ; and that therefore as players they are under authority. The skip is the general—they are soldiers under him, and are bound to obey implicitly his commands. "Their's not to reason why." Obedience is the first and last necessity in a rink of curlers. Nowhere more truly than in a curling match does the maxim hold—"Unity is strength." Each player has his place to fill. By the tee, watching and directing, stands the skip. He knows what is wanted. He gives his orders accordingly and expects them to be obeyed, Insubordination is therefore as heinous a crime on the ice as it is in the army. It is not only when he is on the crampit playing his stone, when his turn comes, that the curler has to remember the duty of obedience to authority. To sweep or not to sweep, he must always be prepared. For want of a helping "soop," one stone may lie a "senseless hog." By excess of sweeping, another may go raging "owre a' ice." Each is valueless. At the skip's cry, "Soop, lads, soop," every besom should be down, and plied on the ice with might and main. "Polish him weel, ye sinners." "Oh for elbow grease !" Be that his cry, then more intensely let them sweep as a matter of life and death. But instantly he shouts : "Besoms up, men, besoms up," let the action be suited to the word. Under authority then, from first to last, in playing and in sweeping, and victory is the reward.

In regard to position in delivering the stone, no hard and fast rule can be laid down ; curlers are like horses, "they run in all shapes." The player must first *fit the tee*—he must so place himself that his eye travels along the central line toward the further tee, while his right foot rests in the track, which in the present day is immov-

**Nature's Greatest
Gift is Health.
Abbey's Effervescent
Salt gives Health.**

able, the ancient style allowing the player to move from side to side, as it suited him. Being in the hack, ease should not be sacrificed even to elegance, and the player need not trouble himself about awkwardness of position, if he find he has command of his stone. Some good advice is summed up in the old curler's word :

" If you'd be a curler keen,
Stand right, look even,
Sole well, shoot straight, and sweep clean."

" Look at the mark with all your een." The eye must be intently fixed on the object aimed at, and fixed on that it must remain till the stone has left the hand. One of the worst faults in curling is a clumsy *delivery* of the stone. By this the ice alongside the track is cracked and broken up, and the curler gives much annoyance to the other players. When a stone is quietly and gracefully "soled," it is far more effective than a stone played with double energy, the force of which is half spent by the blow it receives as it meets the ice. When the stone has left the hand there is no necessity for the player to career up the rink as some do, nor for the physical contortions by which others, to the terror of uninitiated spectators, express their mental agony.

But it is the "roaring game," and if roaring will do it, let them shout to the stone, the sweepers, and the skip, and even to the skies.

As I have before said, the direction of the game is with the skip. The office is one of honor and of responsibility. The skip, albeit a director, is appointed to his office by the will of his brother curlers. It is essential that he should have a thorough knowledge of the game. He should be a man of humor, delighting in "quips, cranks and jollities." With a couple of sour skips at the end of a rink all the life goes out of the game. It is required that a skip should at the social board, as well as upon the ice, be able to tell a good story, and to sing a good song, and though there are no hard and fast lines in regard to the use of alcohol, he is not generally a teetotaler. He should be a man of imperturbable temper, never angry at his men, never blaming anybody but himself, in the hour of defeat unmurmuring, and in the hour of triumph generous. He must be

**Abbey's Effervescent
Salt is a standard
English preparation.
It's use gives health.**

just, honest, wise, cool, prudent, watchful, brave, courageous, blameless as a bishop, and like a bishop, the husband of one wife. If there are any other virtues, let the skip practise them. Finally, he should be a man who can issue his orders in "guid braid Scotch," and who understands without the aid of a dictionary every word and phrase of the native Doric.

Now for a sketch of a typical skip in action, directing the game in the language in which it is generally done. His first player being in the back, he does not give him any information as to what he wants him to do, but simply plants his besom-shank upon the tee. "Ye ken what's wantit." "Oh! be cannie." "Cannily down the howe ice." "Just smell the ring an' I'll no blame ye." He is a good skip who begins with caution, and all through plays a cautious game. "A guid calm shot is aye the best." So the first stone comes "snoorin' up the howe." It does not quite reach the tee, becoming "a perfect patlid," and it pleases the skip all the more, for "it's in the way o' promotion." It is now the turn of the opposing skip to direct. Had the first stone rested on the tee, he would have called for its removal, but with caution he would have said, "draw to the face of this." "Just wittier high and no more." He asks for "a quiet draw." Too much force, and if he missed he is owre a' ice. So he leaves that stone alone, and with "a quiet draw," he gets his stone beside it. To get his stone promoted and guarded is skip No. 1's aim. So "jist crack an egg on this" is his direction, but the player has been too timid, and the stone lags on its journey, so the skip calls for the help of sweepers. "Gie him heels, gie him heels!" "Soop him up, soop him up!" and his stone is on the tee and guarded. "Weel soopit lads," "Come up, Sandy, an' look at it." "Tak yersel' by the han' now." "I'se gie ye a snuff for that." These are expressions of the skip's satisfaction. "Rub off the guard, but dinna throw away your stone," is now skip No. 2's direction. But it is a raging shot, and missing the guard it is through the "brough" like Jehu and 'awa" to the caff-neuk."

ABBEY'S
Effervescent Salt
Excites
the Appetite.

Skip No. 1 is jubilant, he is "shot and guarded." "Big on." "Pile on the agony," he cries as his second player comes forward. "Owre the hog an' you're a great ane." There! "That's anither mote i' their ee."

"That's a seed in their teeth," and with a self satisfied smile skip No. 1 steps aside to see how skip No. 2 will deal with the question. Two courses at least are open. He can curl round the guards and find the winner, or by an outwink on his first player's stone he can force that upon the winner, and leave it shot. So the game proceeds. "New efforts, new schemes, every moment demands."

The whole situation may alter in a minute, for it is a slippery game. The skip must be thoroughly alive, and his treasury of resources must be inexhaustible. Here is a selection of skip speech, some of which may be heard any day in the progress of a bonspiel: "A canny draw," "Tee high weight and no more," "Jist come creepin' up," "Come to the door o' the hoose," "Owre the colly and ye're a great shot," "Dinna let him see that again," "Kittle him weel," "Lift him an ell and lie yersel'," "Lie in the bosom o' the winner," "Curl into your grannie's wing," "Ne'er a kowe," "He's a collie, tak' him by the neck," "He's a great hog."

Victory or defeat in curling depends on "high fated" blows. It is in the final decisive moments that the skill, coolness and courage of the skip is put to the test. The excitement is intense. A stillness as of death prevails when the fate of war depends on that last stone, which the veteran warrior is about to deliver. He plays it with breathless anxiety, everyone watching its career. He has it! He wins the match! The besoms are flung high in the air. Loud shout the victors! The hero of the hour is toasted, and for generations to come his fame as a curler will be remembered in the club, which he has exalted to honor by his marvellous deed.

Curling is a serious game, but it is nothing if it is not humorous. The curling season has been called "The Saturnalia of Scottish life." It is only on the ice that the humors of curling can be studied; it is only by those familiar with the game that they can be appreciated. The humor is of the *dry* quality, and it is delightful to watch a pawky, canny, old skip manoeuvring a game. "Eh, mon, ye're no up, but I like to see ye hoggin'." "As guid's a better." These two are really rebukes, but the humor takes the sting out of them. He clothes his direction to move the enemy with humor by saying: "Jist gie this a wee bit cuff on the cheek," and

**Abbey's Effervescent
Salt
Retains and Regains
Health.**

and he converts the blunder of removing the wrong stone into innocence by the remark : "Ye've waukened the wrang man." In speaking of the minister's stone, it is like the sermon, "weel delivered," and if a scriptural allusion is not out of place, it's "a rare Ebenezer—a stane o' help." When the self-satisfied gravedigger calls out to the skip : "I think that ane 'll lie," there is a bit of grim humor in the response, "Aye, aye, mon, nae fear o' that ; they a' lie that ye pit down."

That *equality* which is one of the features of curling in the open, is accountable for some of the humors of the game. A worthy sheriff was one day playing to the direction of a stonemason, whom he had sent to prison more than once for poaching, but to whom the sheriff had to look up, when curling ; "Noo, shirra," said the poacher-skip, "dae ye see that stane?" "Aye, Jock," answered the sheriff. "A'weel, shirra," says Jock, pointing with his kowe, "jist gie that ane sixty days." The clergy generally are great supporters of curling. A young Ayrshire minister having one day in a match surprised everybody by a shot that required great strength, was saluted thus : "My certie, ye're a bonnie mon to mak' a minister o'." A well known parson curler brought the service in his church to a close with this intimation : "My friends, as the day is stormy, and there may be a danger of some of you being the worse for sitting in this cold church, I shall not detain you by preaching a sermon, but shall now dismiss the congregation ; and, remember, we all meet on the ice to-morrow at 11 o'clock."

An Episcopal minister in Scotland was one day telling his Established brother, his grief at finding that a candidate, whom he had been preparing for confirmation had gone ever to Rome. The auld Kirk brother's apt and only consolation was this : "You've soopit him past the tee."

The proverbial keenness of a curler is thus illustrated : On the eve of a bonspiel, a curler sat by the side of his fire, opposite to him, the cat sat busy washing her face, and occasionally passing her paw over her ear—a sure sign during frost of an approaching thaw. Irritated beyond measure, the curler seized the poor cat and dashed her brains out against the

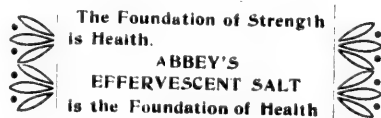
**Happiness is the outcome
of Health. Health is
the outcome of the use
of Abbey's Effervescent
Salt.**

door-post, exclaiming: "I'll learn ye to sit there and mak' thow." This is one of those instances in the game where the humor was not seen by one of the parties interested.

Curlers are generally good husbands, and all the better for their curling. It has an excellent effect on the temper, it clears the brain, and warms the heart, and so the ladies give it their countenance and encourage it in many ways. I cannot conclude this all too brief article on this genial game, in a better way than by quoting the Rev. Henry Duncan.

"Noo fill a bumper to the brim
And drink with threes times three, man ;
May curlers on life's slippery rink,
Frae cruel rubs be free, man,
Or should a treacherous bias lean
Their erring course ajee, man,
Some friendly inring may they meet
To guide them to the tee, man.

The author's thanks are due to Rev. J. Ker for sundry quotations in the foregoing.



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FISHING.



SATAN was, it is said, the father of lies, and as in old prints he is often represented carrying a net over his shoulder, there is very little doubt but that this sport of fishing gave rise to the saying. Yet it seems hard to give such a harsh name to the fairy tales the wily fisherman brings us home. These same tales do any amount of service—they tend to expand the imagination. Why, I have known in my own experience a fish to be $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.—“a real nice fish, old chap, don't cher know”—at eight o'clock at night, whilst at 12 it has been “well, old man, I don't mind telling you, because you know I wouldn't tell you a cram, it was a real beauty, $4\frac{3}{4}$, and then not quite fit; don't go telling where I was.” Again, it makes men have a wonderful command over their features; it is no good a man telling a story of this kind without looking as sober as a judge, and looking, too, as if he really believed it himself; whilst on the other hand it would be too rude and ungentelemanly for the listener to express by even the twinkle of an eye any doubt as to the veracity of his entertainer. Why, to do away with these “tales” on returning from a day's fishing, would be like going to the theatre to see “Hamlet,” with the character of Hamlet cut out. It may well be said as regards fishing, if “the brave deserve the fair,” then in the weather they have often to put up with the plucky fisherman ought to fare well.

Taking into consideration the amount of water there is in Canada, giving to the great number of enthusiasts in fishing such facilities for pursuing the sport, I feel I am taking upon myself a great responsibility by even giving a hint: I can assure your critics I would not do so if it were not that I am writing for the benefit of the young, and not for the seasoned fisherman.

In connection with fishing in Canada, there is no doubt that the trout are not so

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Salt is a health-giving,
health-preserving pre-
paration.**

highly educated here as they are at home, the size of the bags brought back fully proving this. Here a man will bring back more from one day's fishing than just as good a fisherman in England would catch in a month. Yet there are plenty of fish, but they are so worried by the continual endeavors to catch them, that they become just as artful as the man who is after them. There is no doubt that even here the best fisherman will in the long run secure the greatest catches, but at the same time the mere tyro will get good "bags," when in England he would not catch a fish in a week. Of course this to a very great extent is accounted for by the fact that in all preserved waters—and in the old country there is very little free—the use of bait is strictly forbidden. It is needless for me to say that minnow is allowed in the Thames, for the trout in this river, ranging from $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. to 10 lbs., and even larger, will not look at a fly. Trout fishing in Canada is far more like that in Ireland than any we have in England.

I propose in this article to give a few hints as to fly fishing, and tackle required for the same. To proceed then to a description that may be of use to the young hand. The rod should be light enough to be managed easily with one hand, and should be chosen for him by some old fisherman; for with a rod, just the same as with a gun or cricket bat, it is not the actual weight that is of so much importance as the distribution of it. Draw off from your reel from 15 to 18 feet of line, throw out to its extent, and fish in towards you. Different men adopt different ways of throwing the fly, but it really does not matter which is followed, so that one has entire control of one's rod and line, and can do what one likes with the flies. It is really is of no use to try to give theoretical lessons in throwing the fly, for nothing but practice will ever give proficiency; let the beginner rather spend two or three days in watching a good man; then come home and practice in the back garden, putting down some object to cast at. Do not be discouraged if, the first few days you go fishing, you see other men catching fish with the same fly and in the same water you have been unsuccessful in; remember, Rome was not built in one day, and his success has been only gained by hard practice, whereby he is able to let his flies pitch naturally upon

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the Foundation
of Health.

the water ; neither ought you to take it hardly that he should have a self satisfied smile on his countenance whilst doing so, for rivalry is the great zest in all sports, and the fish taken by an expert out of water which has been flogged out of all shape by the beginner, are sweet indeed.

Although, as I have said above, practice is required more than anything else in throwing the fly, it may be well to give a hint or two on it, trying to point out where lie the dangers to the young hand. In watching all beginners it will be found that two or three feet of line drop on the water before the fly ; this is fatal. The fly should fall as nearly like the original as possible, without any of the line itself touching the water. To make the throw, say from the left shoulder, with a rod of 11 feet, take the cast in the left hand so that the fly is clear of the ground, with the rod pointing forward and to the left ; then on loosing the cast, by a half side movement of the arm, sweep the line in a gentle curve till it is well behind you. It is here that a disaster may occur, for if the fly is jerked it may be snapped right off. Having escaped this catastrophe, the line is brought from behind the head to the front of the body, when it is allowed to go forward to the full length of the arm, making the flies pitch on the water gently. This being done it is required to manipulate them to look as much like the real article as possible. As in all sports, the watchword of the young angler should be "Patience."

Remember that in striking a fish it is not necessary to put in all the force of arm and shoulder, but it only requires a sharp turn of the wrist just to fix the hook in the fish. This may seem unnecessary advice, but it will be found that the tyro jerks as if he were shark fishing.

Before proceeding to talk of salmon fishing, I will try to prove that SOME day there will have to be, even in Canada—full of fish as its waters are—better preservation for trout, or there will be the same cry as to the scarcity of fish that there is at present in England. I know I shall be laughed at by many of those who go fishing even now and bring home their dozens in a day, but I am sure that those sportsmen who go out for the day's sport, and who make a study of the subject

**Abbey's Effervescent
Salt
Cures as well as
Prevents Disease.**

will give me some credit for my warning voice. The more the country gets opened up and populated, the more fishermen there will be, and naturally the more fish will be taken. I have been told that there is a law making it illegal to net trout? If this is so, it certainly is a dead letter in some districts. Whose duty is it to take cognizance of this? Have these laws, that seem to be dormant, been made because our legislators, having nothing much on hand, thought it well to frame something so as to appear to be busy. Too much praise cannot be given to the Montreal Fish and Game Club for its exertions in the interests of sport, but it should certainly have a greater amount of assistance from Government.

As regards the decrease of trout in some streams—especially the smaller ones—in England, I am sure that this has been brought about to some extent by over-preservation, paradoxical as this may seem. There is every reason to believe that there is more disease now than formerly, for nature provided means in the shape of otters, herons, etc., (which the keepers now kill off indiscriminately) to rid the streams of those fish which might otherwise propagate disease; for it is a well-known fact, that animals and birds of prey find it far easier to catch the fish weakened by disease, and therefore do so. It has been proved over and over again on the Scotch grouse moors that it is far better to let the hawks remain to kill diseased and weakly birds, and to put up with the loss of the few healthy birds they may capture, than to kill them off, and so allow the whole moor to get diseased. Again, the entire abolition of the use of the minnow has done harm. Now do not think I am an admirer of the use of the minnow, but there are times when it is allowable and justifiable; for instance take a small stream that you know holds half a dozen old "warriors" about four pounds weight; you might fly fish till you were black in the face, and you would not get a rise. Now, one of these fish will eat more of its species in one day than you will catch in ten. Under these circumstances, is it not better for the sake of your after sport to use the minnow, with which you have some chance of catching him?

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is
VIVIFIC.

I do not say that these latter causes will militate against the fishing in Canada; but I do say that however plentiful the trout may be, netting ought to be stopped at once, in common fairness to those who fish honestly.

I suppose that the height of ambition of every fisherman, from the urchin with his stick, cotton and bent pin, fishing for sticklebacks, to the man who has caught his 2-lb. or 3-lb. trout, is to catch a salmon. Unfortunately, I have noticed that to whatever country you may go to attain this desirable end, it is rather an expensive luxury; it is, apart from the sport, a good deal cheaper to buy than to catch, and therefore is like unto one of its concomitants, the cucumber, which is also cheaper to buy than to grow. In the first place you want a good "Greenheart" rod, of from 15 to 20 feet in length; spliced, I would say, for choice, as this gives nicer play than any other arrangement. It should balance about evenly where the upper hand grasps it above the reel, which is placed about ten inches from the butt. The line should not be less than eighty yards long; and should taper down to nearly half its original size where the cast is tied on: which cast, be it remembered, must be of salmon gut, a great deal thicker than that used for trout. To assist the young fisherman in his first attempt to catch a salmon, I would strongly advise his getting some one who lives near to, and has often fished the water he is going to try, to aid him in his selection of flies, and point out the different parts inhabited at various times by salmon; he will be able to go by himself another day; that is, if the water remains about the same height, but if it should be higher or lower to any extent, let him apply for additional aid. As a rule, the larger the body of water, the larger the fly required; the size of the fly depends also to a certain extent on the color of the water.

This being a two-handed rod, it requires both more strength and practice to become proficient in casting, than with the trout rod. I would advise to cast from the left shoulder backwards, then bring slowly and steadily over the right, then keep on accelerating the speed till you deliver the fly upon the water. When the tyro can throw out 25 yards of line like this, to within a reasonable distance of the spot desired, he may rest on his laurels for a time: 35 yards for good fishermen is about the average throw, but tall and strong men will throw several yards further.

The fly should be worked differently than when fishing for trout, being immersed sufficiently not to cause a ripple, but yet not to be out of sight. Again, in striking,

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Salt will keep your
blood pure.**

the young salmon fisher should not strike as quickly as for trout, but should absolutely feel the fish first, which really means that the fish has hooked himself. It often happens as with trout, that the fish will rise and have a smell, look at the fly and turn away disgusted. The only remedy for this is to keep on changing the fly till you find one that they will take. In reference to this I once heard an anecdote told. Three friends went salmon fishing—two of them were really good and enthusiastic fishermen, whilst the third only took a rod for decency's sake, thinking of the lunch and the outing rather than of the number of fish that would be caught. They experienced the very luck I have described, having rise after rise, but never even pricking a fish, much less catching one. It was not an exactly happy family that on returning entered the hospitable doors of one of the party, nor were two of the trio made any happier by the following conversation: Lady of the house—"Well. Mr. S., I am so sorry you have come all this way and had no sport; my husband and brother are generally so lucky." "Oh, don't mention it, I really enjoyed myself immensely; lovely day, good luncheon, cigars, etc., etc., you know, go a long way to make a man appreciate life." "But, still, even these surely could not compensate you for not getting any fish, when they were rising, too?" "No, perhaps not, but when the fish would not take, the 'lovely flow of language' that emanated from your husband and brother made up for all!"

The great thing after hooking your fish is to give him the butt—that is, get the point of the rod well up, with the butt towards the fish—as much as you think the tackle will bear, being ever ready to give him line if he make a sudden plunge or performs any gyrations in the air. For the rest, the landing or losing of one fish will really give more real instruction than yards of printed advice.

In concluding my remarks on this most pleasant sport, I would impress upon my young readers the necessity of going about it in a business and sportsmanlike manner, if they wish to excel; and

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is Health.**
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should they have bad luck in getting a bag legitimately, let it not be said of them that they descended in order to fill it to means unworthy of a true sportsman.

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CRICKET.



BEFORE giving the few hints on this time-honored game, I feel it will not be out of place to write a few words as to its origin. Surely a game that drew from Wellington the now historical "Waterloo was won on the cricket fields of Eton and Harrow" deserves this!

Enthusiasts vie with each other in tracing this game to a very early date: none have yet gone so far back as Adam, though some have gone so far as to interpret certain passages in the Bible to uphold their theory as to its age. We do know that the ancient Greeks played "ball"—no, not base-ball—ball, pure and simple, then called *ourania*, which consisted of throwing "skiers" for one another to catch.

Although many other games of "ball" were played by the ancients as well as by modern countries, we fail to find the fairest analogy to our "noble game," in as much as no mention is ever made of the ball being hit by anything but the hand. On these grounds we claim cricket as essentially an English game—English in its character, English in its origin. This being granted, it may well be asked why the English people possess the only field game of a truly scientific character.

The answer is simple! Patricians and Plebians have played together with an absolute and joyous oblivion, for the time, of all social distinctions, which has rendered the game amenable to refining influences.

It may be mentioned that even France has claimed the honor of its nationality, it having been said by a French writer to be but a variety of the old French game "*jeu de meul*." A weighty argument against this theory is that at the present time the French mind seems hope-

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after the night be-
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lessly bewildered in the attempt to distinguish between the sense, sound, and pronunciation of "cricket" and "wicket"—both of break-jaw difficulty in utterance to Frenchmen. A Frenchman, M. Kervigan, in his work entitled "*L'Anglais à Paris*" (1866), thus describes cricket:—"Two (or more) players, armed with bats like Harlequins, but three or four centimeters thick, stand opposite one another at a distance of from fifty to seventy paces, more or less, according to their skill. Behind them are planted two stakes, three feet high. Two little sticks, *appeles wicket*, are placed across the top of the stakes. Finally, there is a wooden ball, covered with leather, about the size of a large orange; and the skill consists in hurling the ball, by means of the bat, so that it may strike the stakes of the adversary, which one is assured of having done when one sees the wicket fall." This description surely will convince even the most sceptical that cricket is not a French game.

The scientific development of cricket is referable in a great degree to the countenance and support of the English public schools and universities. While many of the old games show signs of decadence, Cricket every year gains in strength, not only in the United Kingdom, but wherever the British flag waves. Take for instance Australia, who has had the temerity to "beard the lion in its den," and not only that, but has shown the Mother country it is able to send to England a team powerful enough at times to make her lower her colors! Nor—such is the good feeling among true cricketers—does England complain! far from it, each succeeding visit she gives a heartier welcome to her sons from the Antipodes.

Canada, too, has shown that she has exponents who can well uphold the honor of the old game, though they may never attain to the proficiency of their Australian cousins, through climatic influence, their season being so short they are debarred from a certain amount of the practice, which is so essential in order to become first class. Let us view cricket as a mode of warfare, then cricketers should be

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the bravest of the brave, magnanimous to offenders, and forgetful of social differences in the feeling that cricket is an English game, and such a game that all others having any claim to nationality must be dimmed, if not totally eclipsed, in comparison with it.

In my love for the game I fear I have strayed from my text ; to return then to its origin. We find the dissyllable "cricket" first used in the time of Elizabeth, but of the game to which it referred no account is given. Little is heard of it in the 17th century, but on the opening of the 18th the clouds sheer off, and a sunbeam, which seems to have lost its way, once more illuminates the pages of the history of the game. It is worthy of note that up to this time the game had not travelled beyond a radius of forty miles from London.

It is pretty generally conceded that cricket was first regularly played at Guildford in Surrey, for there is still in existence a document referring to a piece of land in that town—a dispute arose as to its occupation by one John Parrishe.

One witness "declared he knew the land in question for fifty years, for when he was at the Free School he went on it with other lads and played cricket and other plays." This enquiry arose in the fortieth year of Elizabeth's reign. As I have before said, it was in the 18th century cricket made a decided move, for a match is recorded as having been played at Birmingham, whilst the battle of Preston was being fought against the rebels.

About 1710 cricket had grown into such colossal proportions in Kent, that that county challenged the whole of England, considerable sums of money being staked on the result, the non-payment of which ended in a lawsuit.

The game now became an instrument for gambling, and for a time found little favor either as a moral or noble pastime. To quote from the *Gentleman's Magazine* (1743): "Cricket is a very innocent and wholesome exercise, yet it may be abused if either great or little people make it their business ; it is grossly abused when it is made the subject of public advertisements, to draw together a great crowd of people, who ought all of them to be somewhere else. The diversion of cricket may be proper in holiday time, but upon days when men ought to be busy, it is not only improper but also mischievous in a high degree." This was written nearly 150 years ago, and I have no doubt there are many now who endorse these sentiments.

The above is certainly a gloomy picture

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Salt
Retains and Regains
Health.**

of the past, but judging from the whole production—a part only of which I have quoted—its author had little liking for the game. As time wore on, the public censor asserted his power as regards gambling; the atmosphere sweetened, and the game grew into favor. The adjectives “manly and noble” were applied to it. These are proudly retained to this day.

A noteworthy date in the history of cricket is the year 1774, when a committee met and settled the rules, as nearly as possible as they exist to-day, though in slightly different language.

The first “Cricketers’ Guide” came out in 1810, compiled by Lambert, whose hints to young players are as useful to-day as when given 80 years ago. Round arm bowling now appeared, and there was as much talk among cricketers as to its discoverer, as among mathematicians to decide between Leibnitz and Newton as the discoverer of “The Doctrine of Fluxions.”

It would take far more space than I am allowed, to trace the rapid advance now made by cricket; to show how it had spread we will simply state that a match was played in 1843 at Toronto, *versus* St. George’s Club of New York; whilst in 1823, during Sir Edward Parry’s second voyage in search of a north-west passage, a match was played in latitudes above 80°.

Giant strides were made about 1849 by the establishment of the “All England Eleven,” which travelled all over England, leaving the mark of cricket behind.

It is hardly possible to estimate the advantages resulting from naval and military cricket all over the world; and, indeed how intolerable would be the life of either service, but for occasional relaxation out of doors, or ashore, such for instance as that afforded by the mimic strife of cricket.

Having brought the game down to well within the memory of our grandfathers, and I fancy to most of my readers a later date even, I will leave it in the able hands of “Lillywhites Guide” to furnish all later information.

I cannot close this short history of the infancy of the game without quoting a passage from the writings of the only Frenchman who has dared to criticise cricket—M. Esquiros,

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Excites
the Appetite.

in his work sneers at the moral effect which cricket is supposed to have on the population. He insinuates that the "predeliction for it as an instrument for education and improvement, is partly due to agreeable reminiscence of the teachers." Granted this is so, still the teacher who can enter into and enjoy games with his pupils, has a far easier task to get work from them during school hours than would otherwise be the case. In conclusion, then, let us all join in wishing "Long may cricket nourish Great Britain and her colonies."

A FEW HINTS TO YOUNG BOWLERS.

These hints are given simply for young bowlers, though if they are of service to mature cricketers, I shall indeed be pleased.

It has been said that "it is the pace which kills"; this is true in bowling, but my young friend must remember the pace may kill him before he kills the batsman; therefore I would warn all young bowlers not to overtax their strength when first learning; but when their action is thoroughly settled—which action should be natural—gradually to increase the pace, which will enable them to keep entire control of the ball.

There is a great deal of nonsense talked about such and such a ball having been a very good one: as a matter of fact, it might really have been a very bad one, but the batsman by his bad play made it into a good one. We cannot lay down a hard and fast line as to what is really a good ball, for what might be such to one player would perhaps be hit for four by another; still it is safe to say that if a medium-pace bowler keeps a length of $4\frac{1}{2}$ yards from the wicket, he cannot be knocked about very much; and I would have you remember, both batsman and bowler, that that ball, though it be not straight, is as good a one, save for bowling the man out, as if it were straight: by this I mean that a good length ball off the wicket is as hard, if not more so, to keep down, as when on the wicket. Be sure, if you are to stray from this pitch, to let it be farther up and not shorter; for the farther you pitch up, within reason, the more likely you are to get catches.

Always, when practising, bowl with the same action, and in fact do everything the same, as if you were in a match.

Do not strive to get work or twist on

† The Roses of Health come
to the cheeks
through the daily use of
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the ball till you can bowl straight and pitch the ball within 4 inches of where you wish to. Variation of pace will get far more wickets than miles of twist.

After all is said on the theory of bowling, there is one bald fact for the bowler to grasp ; that is, he must use his head in discovering the weak spot in the batsman, for every batsman has one ; having found it, then comes the time to make use of his store of theoretic and of practical knowledge.

Finally, my bowler in *embryo*, don't get cross if a man misses a catch ; smile as you were wont to smile ; keep your head cool though you may be hit for six ; try him again, but give the ball a little more elevation and shorten the length, when virtue may be rewarded, and you may be able to study with pleasure the symmetry of your opponent's back as he retires to the Pavilion.

BATTING.

I am sure it is unnecessary to point out to cricketers that there are many wielders of the bat who cannot be called batsmen—the former are quite content to hit the ball one time in six, while the latter lay themselves out to play the game. It is not very difficult even for an outsider to distinguish between them. For any of my readers who may not be quite sure, I will take the liberty of giving a few pointers. First, the “would-be” batsman usually comes on the ground late, taking care to let everyone know he has arrived. Having satisfied the spectators of this important fact, he divests himself of his natural garments and walks into the field, of course not forgetting his cricket war-paint. He then proceeds to practice, getting some innocent soul to bowl lobs to him—so that he may make sensational hits, and elicit ecstatic cheers from the ignorant mob.

Mark on the other hand the “Cricketer,” and by this I mean the man who not only understands, but plays the game—how differently he behaves ; no fuss or bother—he has done his practice long ago ; he may, perhaps, have half-a-dozen balls just to see if his eye is straight, and there is an end of it : his pads do not want adjusting just at the last moment ; he does not want a band of music to usher him into the wicket ; and when asked, “How was that ?” instead of

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paration.**

answering, "Oh, awful luck you know, old chap; ball hit on a bit of dirt, you know;" our cricketer replies grimly, "Hit my wicket down, confound it." This, young players, is rather a homily to you on how to play the batsman's game theoretically; now I will try in my poor way to throw it into practical form.

Here again I repeat that these hints, as well as those on bowling, are intended for young players; though of course I will consider it a compliment if older men find them worth reading.

To business then: First of all, you play with too large a bat; now, don't mistake me, I do not mean too broad, but too heavy and too long in the handle. By all means use a bat with as large a surface as cricket law will allow. No boy can play *cricket*—though many attempt it—with a bat that weighs 2 lbs. 2 oz. at the most, and which he has not had quite one-half inch cut off the ordinary handle. After having selected his bat of about this weight, the corresponding thickest part being about $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the bottom, he should then get the handle to fit his hand, so as to be able to get a good grip of it. Handles are, as a rule, made too small, a fault easily remedied by adding another layer of twine, or, if this is not sufficient, a coating of wash-leather; though I do not advise this for those in the habit of making centuries, as it is apt to get greasy.

I presume now that you are fitted out, but still I suppose you want "pads" and gloves. Well, in choosing the former, though the bat *ought* to protect wickets and legs, get a pair that *fit*, and see that the straps are perfect before you go in to bat: and for the latter, always have a new pair to lend a novice, while you borrow a good old pair from some confiding friend for your own use. Take my word for it, you will be far more comfortable.

Always look at the batting list before the innings commences; and I would advise that you should make your entry from the pavilion—from whence you are expected—and not draw extra attention to yourself by coming from some shady spot on the ground, or from the grand stand, then your duck's egg—if the fates have it so—

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will be far more palatable. Having got to the wicket, take guard—still without fuss: by guard I mean get to know that your right foot is clear of the wicket, that is, that your toe is as nearly in a line with the leg stump as

is possible without covering it ; this being done, it does not matter in the least where your bat is, for to a certain extent you will be bound to follow out the golden rule of a *batsman*, "Keep your bat straight"! This is the whole secret for young players ; old ones may take liberties by which they suffer : keep your bat straight, and common sense must tell you that the bowler has pretty hard work to hit your wicket.

This reminds me of an anecdote of a boy who, looking on at a match, with his mother, and being rather down-hearted because his side was getting the worst of it, on being reminded that his brother had yet to go in, said : "Pooh! he don't play with a straight bat" ; upon which his fond parent remarked consolingly, "Never mind boy, I'll buy him a straight one!"

Being now in position—I take it for granted you have in your mind's eye the position of the fieldsmen—you are ready to receive the attack of your whilom enemy, the bowler—as regards whom, never mind what idiotic gyrations, or tortuous windings he may go through, remember it is not the man you have to play, but the ball—therefore you have to keep your eye on the ball, and the ball only. The ball having left the bowler's hand, it is for you to make up your mind at once how it is to be played ; for should you be caught in two minds, woe betide you. Of course this is a matter of practice, but to assist you at the critical time, the following rules will be a fair guide : 1st—Should the wicket be *hard and good*, play right straight out, keeping the left shoulder as well over the bat as possible, which will enable you to keep the ball along the "floor." 2nd—The wicket being dead, i.e. slow, play back, watching carefully the break, whether it be from the off or leg, by which means you may be ready to take full advantage of that sweetest of all sweet things—a long hop. To assist you a little further, when watching the delivery of the ball your eye should practice itself to take in the bowler's wrist : should the *under* part turn upwards, which is the case 90 times out of a hundred, the ball will break into you ;

**Happiness is the outcome
of Health. Health is
the outcome of the use
of Abbey's Effervescent
Salt.**

but if the top part turns upwards, the ball will come in from the leg. As I am here talking to beginners I will not bother you with any remarks as to "placing"—this you may or may not

be able to do with, say two or three years hard practice. We will now take it that our young batsman has been playing carefully, and has his double figure, I would here advise that the batsman should count all his runs ; it makes him play far more steadily, apart from the good done to the memory and the player's arithmetic ; he should not then think it time to go in for a smite or gallery stroke, but play the innings through as he has commenced ; he will have plenty of opportunities of hitting *bad* balls without any risk, keeping in mind the fact that batsmen are put out by their own foolishness far oftener than by the cleverness of the bowler. Keep away from all *fancy* strokes, such as the "draw," playing "under the leg," "cutting off the middle stump," etc., etc. ; these are all very well for old hands, but sudden death to the youngster.

I am afraid my young reader will say, "it's all very fine ; he tells me what *not* to do, and does not say much about what we *are* to do." To this I answer, "If you follow out these few main rules as to what *not* to do, and if you have cricket in you, instinct will most assuredly suggest what you *are* to do. But should you do what you ought *not* to do, instinct has no chance to assist you." Above I have said "if you have cricket in you," Now, if you have not, it is no more use for you to try and rise above the level of the mediocre school-boy player than for one who has no music in him to endeavor to become a Mozart.

To be a good cricketer, the game must be inherited—just the same as music, painting, etc. This being so, steady practice does the rest. Now just one word as to running ; for nothing looks so utterly feeble as to see men collide in the middle of the wicket.

To avoid such catastrophes, always run to your left. When called, make up your mind at once whether you will run or stop your partner ; if the latter it must be done instantaneously, or the blame is on your shoulders. There is no reason or law against you saying "No," if you do not think you are able to make the run. Should the point be contested, you may remind your partner that it takes two to make a run, and that the fact of his getting down to your wicket does not necessarily ensure your getting back to his.

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GOLF.



NOW that Golf has taken such a prominent position in the world of sport, it is impossible, in such a small book as this is, to give that amount of attention the game deserves. This is all the more to be regretted since no body of men are more willing to pay for literature pertaining to their favorite game than are golfers, and no body of men criticise the work more keenly. Still, a book with the title this one possesses, would be far from complete without Golf, so I must e'en brave the critics, and with some kind assistance from Mr. Lanskill, trust that my flaying may be of a gentle nature.

Of the origin and history of this game little need be said. The term "golf," pronounced *goff*, is evidently derived from the German word *kolbe*, signifying a club, or the Dutch word *kolf*, of similar meaning, and implying a game which is played with club and ball. Games with club and ball are numerous, and their origin is doubtless coeval with man.

But so far as Britain is concerned, the origin of golf must be conceded to Scotland, where, as early as March, 1457, the game was being played with such zeal as greatly to interfere with what was deemed a more popular necessity, viz., that of training in archery. Although decrees were passed that golf "*be cryit down and nocht usit*," and that "*no place be used for futeball, golfe, or other sik unprofitabill sportes*," the people gave no heed. Somehow they had become possessed of so fascinating a sport, that it further became necessary to "*prohibit such pastyme as golf upon the Sabbath day*." It may be the people were more amenable to this last decree, but nothing could dislodge the love and delight which the people of Scotland have always entertained for this their favorite game. In the end, however, it was recognized as the national game of Scotland, and mon-

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good health.

archs became not only its patrons, but they also distinguished themselves in the practice of the noble science.

My object is not merely to incite a love for the game. I desire at the outset to notice some of its many advantages. To play the game successfully requires a vast amount of most prompt and careful judgment. It entails also the most invigorating and healthy action of arms and legs. Indeed, I might say, although in regard to it there may be exceptions, a good golfer should possess the cool head of a professional whist or chess player. He should possess, moreover, the arms of a navy or blacksmith, and the untiring energy of a September sportsman.

In golfing there is no stationary work for either legs, arms, or brain. Like the face of nature, the game is a series of perpetual changes. Problem after problem, or, if you like it better, difficulty after difficulty arises, which you are called upon to surmount by cool judgment and prompt action. And as those difficulties, subject as they are to the rules of chance, may never occur twice under similar circumstances, the exercise of judgment has therefore the wider scope. In golfing there is no call, as in the game of cricket, for any sudden and violent exercise to be followed by a chilling inactivity.

There are some men to whom the term "duffer" is applied. Many of such men are blessed with great muscular power, and nothing seems to give them so much pleasure as driving a ball single-handed, and in that way fumbling, topping and bunkering over a golf-course. But even an indifferent player, or an elderly man who cannot stand too much hard work, can indulge in a modified form of the game. He may play in what is called a "foursome" by securing a partner better qualified than himself, or by special arrangement he may hire a first-class professional to pull him through. As a rule, a bad driver is a good hand at the short game. A foursome is by no means such hard work as a "single." In the former case, the partners playing every alternate stroke, it amounts to just one half of arms' work, unless one's ally is continually landing himself in the jaws of some terrific sand-bunker. Some men prefer the milder work of a foursome to the harder work of a single. Others, again, will play a single in the morning and a foursome in

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It's use gives health.**

the afternoon. To wit, a gallant colonel said to me last summer : "I never play 'singles' both morning and afternoon. It's far too hard work." The sequel to the old adage, "All work and no play," crossed my mind, and it occurred to me that the gallant colonel had invented a new application of the old proverb.

Golf, then, is a game admirably adapted for almost all conditions of men. It results in the formation of friendly societies, such as gentlemen's clubs, artisans' clubs, caddies' clubs, and in seaside places there are also fishermen's clubs. All these, as a rule, meet and play on the same green without any collision whatever. This arises from the fact that all submit to the strict discipline of the game. Indeed, a golf rule commands, I fear, more respect and prompt obedience than do many in the Decalogue.

Golf need not be a ruinously expensive game. In photography, when a man has secured to himself a good camera, the great expense is over. So is it in golf : when a man has provided himself with a complete set of clubs, he may keep his expenses, so far as the game is concerned, within a small compass. But, in addition to the clubs, I must not omit to mention the necessity of providing a convenient and suitable dress for golfing. A golfing rig-out is neither extensive nor expensive. It is easily obtained, and few gentlemen's wardrobes are ever destitute of what is required under any emergency.

But besides these not very expensive externals, something more is needed to play the game of golf. A man must needs have a good eye, and above all, a good temper. He must be content to recognise with equanimity an error of judgment, as well as to receive graciously any defeat which he may sustain at the hands of the adversary with whom he may be contending. In the case of defeat, let the cause be what it may, a man would do wisely if he contented himself to abide by the following motto : "Beaten, but not conquered." Cool players always score at golf in the long run, but a hasty temper leads to "pressing," "topping," "breaking clubs," and otherwise going to pieces in all parts of the game. Apart from these issues of a hasty temper, it very often happens that the coolest player is what is called "off his game." In that case there is no let or hindrance to his going out and practising by himself. It may be he is out of form

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is "just as good" as
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in the use of one or more particular clubs ; for each club, as I shall set forth hereafter, is for a special purpose. But, anyhow, he can by such quiet practice soon bring his hand round so as to resume its wonted cunning in the use of either this or that club.

By some persons, not players of course, golf has been regarded as a dangerous game. Mishaps are more likely to happen to strangers than to those who are versed in the game and the rules of the game. The golf course is a place for players, but not for stargazers. If a man wishes to see the game played with safety to himself, let him walk with any party going out from beginning to end. But should he leave the party when about mid-course, it will most likely happen that he will find himself between the firing of the outgoing and incoming players. The danger of golf, therefore, is simply nothing to the golfer, though it may exist for the foolishly unwary.

ADVICE FOR BEGINNERS.

In commencing this important subject, I cannot too strongly impress upon the mind of a beginner the necessity of acquiring at the outset the true and perfect style of playing the game. A bad beginning, as a rule, makes a bad ending, and a badly acquired style, whether it be in golf or in any other game, clings to a man like a limpet to a rock ; for, when once indulged in, it is extremely difficult to unlearn. A beginner should, if possible, engage the services of some experienced player, who in a short time would conduct his pupil through all the intricacies of the game in a manner not to be conveyed by books. A good player, as a matter of course, takes great delight in playing the game, and, according to my own experience, he has equal delight in teaching an apt pupil. Besides receiving the benefit of oral instruction from an expert, the pupil would also have the immense advantage of watching a pattern stroke made by his teacher.

But, as a good teacher is not always ready at hand, I will do my best to convey the useful hints which I have received.

In playing the game of golf, it is absolutely necessary at the outset to be told a few essential facts.

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Salt
Cures as well as
Prevents Disease.**

First, then, I must say a few words as to the manner of holding or grasping the play club. The main idea is to grasp the handle tightly with the upper hand, while

the lower hand must be held loosely. The lower hand will act simply as a guide to the club. The V's formed by the thumbs and first fingers in each grasp should be parallel down the shaft of the club, and the knuckles should also be invisible to the player. But take special notice of this: The club should be gripped with the fingers, and not with the palms of the hands. In preparing to make a stroke the feet should be planted well apart, in order to give steadiness to the body, as well as to provide for its future movements in the full delivery of a stroke. For similar reasons also the knees should be slightly bent and the body leaning forwards. In the position thus taken the ball should be as nearly as possible in a line with the front or left foot. Remember also in gripping to keep the thumbs over the first and second fingers—the wrists down, and the arms well and freely extended from the body. Stand at such a distance that the ball can be reached with ease in the down-coming of the club. Do not stand too near, or over the ball, nor commit the opposite fault by standing too far away, thereby causing a loss of force by over-reaching. If these simple directions be followed, the learner will avoid those frightful errors, which, in golfing terms, are known as “topping,” “heeling,” “toeing,” etc. By “topping” a ball is meant striking it above the centre, instead of getting a good hold on the ball. By “heeling” a ball is meant striking it with the heel of the club. The effect of such a stroke would certainly not be to send the ball in a straight line, but to drive it widely to the right, whereas a “toed” ball would be driven away to the left.

To ensure a successful stroke, especially when making the long drive, there is a needful preparation called “addressing one's self to the ball.” It is not always easy to judge, without experiment, at what distance to stand from the ball. But this position is arrived at by the player reaching out with the club to the ball, and standing as already described, when by a few temporizing movements of his club above and behind the ball (which action is called “addressing one's self to the ball”) a proper judgment of distance and direction may be arrived at. Some persons occupy much time over this business, and are apt to be credited with “overmuch flourish.” A moderate amount

<p>ABBHEY'S Effervescent Salt is VIVIFIC.</p>

of this preparation is not only excusable, but is also absolutely necessary, for reason already stated. By thus waving the club a few times to and fro a greater freedom of wrists and arms are acquired. In swinging, that is to say, in delivering a stroke with the play club or with the spoon, it should be swung back slowly and with a circular swing over the right shoulder, until it arrives at the back of the player's neck. The club should then be brought down with sweeping force to the object aimed at, and the greatest impetus should be given when the club arrives within a few feet of the ball. The sweep, for sweep it is, must be perfectly true and symmetrical to the end. By this is meant, the club, if properly wielded, will, in its course from the beginning to the end of the swing, describe about three-fourths of a perfect circle. Any other style than this comes under the head of either high swinging or low swinging, which for long driving are deemed glaring errors. Too much care, therefore, cannot be taken by beginners to avoid these errors, for, as I have before stated, a badly acquired habit is a most difficult thing to be rid of.

Another important point connected with the swinging of a club is the enforced action on the body. To appreciate this fact let the beginner try the following experiment: Take the club and use it as directed above, but do not, if possible, remove either foot from its original position. The result will be, if you wield the club with full force while maintaining that position, a severe strain upon both arms and body. To avoid this, as also to reap the benefit of your full force, the body must participate in your action. For this purpose, in first swinging up let the body follow the action by the help of the left foot, and in swinging down let the arms and body follow the direction of the ball. The latter movement is accomplished by rising on the right toe. Be careful not to check arms or body at the ball, but follow the stroke through. By these means the striker will be enabled to send the ball with swiftness and unerring accuracy.

Still, however, to acquire that accuracy one thing more is needful, which I have reserved for special notice. Having looked ahead, and having decided upon the direction of play, you next direct your attention to the ball. Remember this—while in the act of

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Salt will keep your
blood pure.**

making a stroke, do not on any account allow your eyes to wander from the ball ; no, not for an instant. Aim at striking the ball with the centre of the face of the club, and strike well at the root of the ball so as to avoid topping or missing the ball altogether. It would be better to *schlaff* the turf a little, and give the ball a chance of going, rather than to continue the habit of hitting the ball on the top. A topped ball makes no progress, and the action presents a most unseemly operation on the part of the player.

Having acquired a knowledge of the correct style, position and swing for driving, then by all means go out alone and practise all day, from day to day, until proficiency therein is attained. You might if possible, choose as your companion an experienced caddie, who would take no small interest in your efforts ; and you would do well to invite his criticism, lest any fault be unconsciously developed in your exercise.

Do not as a beginner be over-anxious to play in matches, but spend much time in quiet practice alone. No one, with any experience, cares to play with an erratic beginner, because it tends to make even a good player careless. Faults are infectious.

PUTTING.

I will now proceed to give you some few hints on putting. Many of the best players vary in their standing position while putting. Some stand in front of the ball, while others take up a position behind it. Some, again, will stand near, and others as far as possible from the ball ; while some will grip the club short, and others give it its full length. But the following is, I think, the best course to adopt : Stand square to the ball, having the feet about eighteen inches apart, and so arrange yourself that the ball may lie a little nearer to the right foot than to the left. Aim at the back of the hole—which means the further side of the hole from where you stand—and allow the putter, in its motion, to follow the ball. But in doing so be careful to avoid shoving or pushing. The ball must be played fairly and honestly for the hole. I have said, aim at the back of the hole. At first sight, possibly the reason for this may not be apparent. The simple reason is that the ball, if it fall short of the hole, has no chance of

**Happiness is the outcome
of Health. Health is
the outcome of the use
of Abbey's Effervescent
Salt.**

going in. I therefore say, give the ball a chance. The common advice of a professional teacher to a beginner is, "Remember the hole will not come to you."

The above advice holds good whether you use wooden or iron putters. For my part I prefer the former. Still, if a ball lies cupped on the green, then by all means use a cleek, which is a most useful club when holing out.

In using the "cleek" let the club lie naturally, and do not place it so as to make its face square to the ball. In that case you would necessarily be obliged to stand very much in front of the ball, and the hands being thus brought too much in advance of the club head, a truly following stroke under such circumstances could hardly be made.

TEEING.

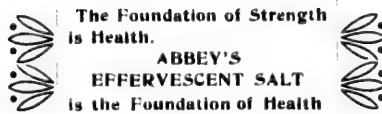
I have already explained the teeing-ground, and now, on the subject of teeing, I offer you the following hints. Whether the teeing be done by yourself, or whether it be done, as is usual, by the caddie whom you engage to carry your clubs while at play, see that only a small pinch of sand be used for the purpose. A ball placed upon a positive mound of sand is as unsightly as it is unnecessary, and the practice is most absurd. Note well, the sand should be so pinched up as to touch only the centre of the ball. Some caddies and inexperienced persons will sometimes put down a big pat of sand, into the centre of which they positively press the ball. That ball I consider to be bunkered rather than teed.

GENERAL ADVICE.

Lastly, I come to more general advice, which I trust may be also useful to a beginner. It not unfrequently happens that the first day's play of a beginner is better than the second. At this be not disheartened; it simply suggests the necessity of more steady and quiet practice. If in playing you lose a hole, especially at the commencement of the game, do not begin to fume and fret over it like a child over spilt milk. Remember that other holes are before you, and by steadying down you may possibly do better with them. This holds good both in score and hole play. Many a good player may start with a record of two or three holes to the bad, but in the end he

**Nature's Greatest
Gift is Health.
Abbey's Effervescent
Salt gives Health.**

may have so retrieved himself as to come in with a good score, and possibly, after all, he may be announced the winner. Never talk of bad luck. If you make a bad shot, do not on the next occasion dash at the ball in a rage and hit wildly, in which case the last stroke will, in all probability, be worse than the former. Do not in a fit of passion throw your clubs about. Such an effort could certainly do you no good, and it might be destructive to your clubs. Always remember that a bad stroke is not the fault of the club, but of the man at the end of it.



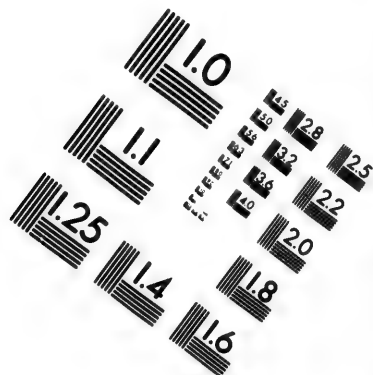
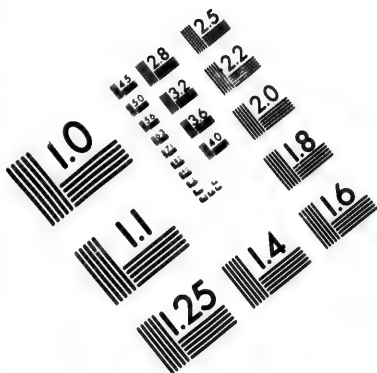
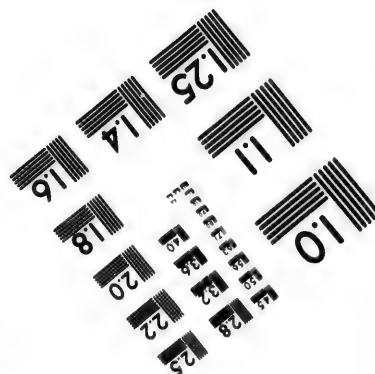
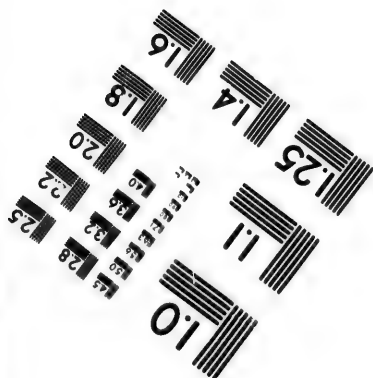
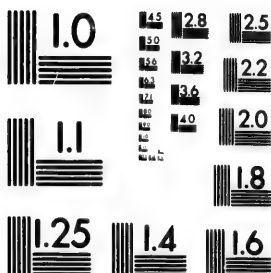


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LACROSSE.

 TO write upon Lacrosse in Montreal, at first sight seems not only a work of supererogation, but also a rather daring venture, considering that from the small boy with his miniature lacrosse, to the veteran with many scars gained in the game, about 90 per cent. of the population arrogate to themselves the right to criticize both exponents of and writers on the game. Under these circumstances I have thought it wiser to give merely general observations on the play, rather than a scientific article on the intricacies of the game. The following short history of the game may be interesting to those who have not yet read of the game in its infancy.

The game of lacrosse has a very interesting past. It is the invention of the North American Indians, and it is highly probable that it was played by them as a formulated pastime as far back as we know polo to have been by the Persians. Catlin, in his travels sixty years ago, found tribes to the number of forty-eight, and separated by a distance of three thousand miles, playing the early form of the present lacrosse in a way that proved it to be a well-established thing, but the earlier records which exist in connection with polo are wanting. In Catlin's time, and later, the game was something more than a mere pastime on occasions, for when tribe met tribe the interest approached the nature of warfare, the excitement prevailing being no doubt the prototype of what is now witnessed with ourselves amongst the partisans of the contesting sides in a Capital vs. Shamrock match. The night previous to the game would be spent in savage modes of preparation, which would but ill accord with our modern notions of training. The whole of the available males of each tribe appeared to take part in the contest: indeed, Catlin's pictures show some hundreds engaged. The ball

The Roses of Health come
to the cheeks
through the daily use of
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was of deer skin, stuffed with hair, and the crosse in which it was carried was a small affair compared with that now in use, the netting being not much larger than the ball. Two crosses are spoken of, in some cases, the ball being held between the two. Tribes varied a little in their modes of play, whilst each made a point of using some particular form of crosse.

Crosse is, of course, a more modern term, given by the French Canadians, because the form of the implement used suggested the Bishop's crozier. From this it is clear that the game, as seen by Catlin, had undergone some development before reaching Montreal and other of the more Eastern towns. The game, as played before Catlin, must have been a terrific scramble, and without combination. Amongst so many players one could not expect to secure the ball often, so he had to do the most he could when it came in his way. It is not difficult to imagine the frantic efforts which some athletic young brave would make to carry the ball into the goal, and probably he would become considerably damaged in the process. These efforts, it is amusing to learn, were further inspired in the case of married men by the privilege which extended to the wife of making a formidable birch out of hazel switches, and with it relentlessly thrashing her spouse whenever his efforts slackened. As the players wore nothing but a waist-cloth—paint and feathers distinguished one side from the other—the woman was able to inflict considerable punishment; and it was considered shockingly bad form on the part of the husband to offer violence in return. The reason for the extension of a privilege so unusual in the case of an Indian squaw, was the fact that the women invariably staked a considerable quantity of their worldly goods upon the issue of the game. Goals under ordinary conditions, *i.e.*, from two hundred to two hundred and fifty yards apart, appear to have been very easily gained, for the game was commonly one of one hundred points up, each goal counting one point. And now note a very curious thing: did the score reach ninety-five all, the players were allowed to set to ten. It is surprising indeed, to find a custom in vogue at rackets and fives developed in the natural order of things by savages with whom we could have had no communion, living across some thousands of miles of ocean. The goal posts were

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Excites
the Appetite.

over twenty feet high, and sometimes the players had only to get the ball across a goal-line, which would account for the rapid scoring. The old men of the tribes made all preparations, and acted as umpires. The testimony of other travellers goes to show that the playing of lacrosse, or the ball-game, as it was called by the Indians, was one of the occupations of their life.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON PLAY IN THE FIELD.

The almost universal use of the overhand throw has made the game faster than it was in the first days of its introduction, and there is less running, because men are more accurate with their throws, and more handy with their crosses. The old game once consisted of a speedy wing man running down at right angles to the goal, and then throwing the ball across, so that it fell in front of the posts. But it was soon realised that this could be done much more expeditiously by the throw from the centre of the field without much preparatory running. But these tactics were not persisted in so soon as defence men took to holding down the crosses of the attacks as the ball approached and left the goal-keeper to deal with the ball. No two teams play precisely the same game; but, as a general thing, it may be assumed that the object of the manœuvring is to pass the ball on to one of the homes, who shoots at goal. The rapidity with which this is at times accomplished is one of the features of the game.

A single mistake on the part of a defence player, and the ball may be through the goal in fifteen or twenty second from the start. This is not a hypothetical case, for it happens every season. In the early days of the game, when the matches were three goals out of five, the actual play seen in a match of the highest importance might not exceed half-a-dozen minutes, so rapidly were the three goals scored by one side. Now matches are played differently, and it is wonderful that paying spectators ever tolerated the above system. I refer to this matter with set purpose, for the beginner cannot too soon engraft the fact on his mind, that the ball can be made to travel through the air some two or three times faster than a man can run along the ground. Consequently, the most expeditious way of getting a ball to a given spot, is to throw it there, and not to carry it thither on the crosse.

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The player need never fear that his legs will not have had sufficient exercise by the time the match is over. At lacrosse there is none of the touch-line play which gives football players under both codes short intervals of breathing space; the ball is always travelling, and those players will get on best who can save their powers for those occasions when the ball comes in their vicinity and they have to fight for it with an opponent. The sudden sprint at top speed which gets the player to the ball before the opponent is what is valuable in the runner. It may be that no other course than running lies open to him. In that event he must run; but, if a friend placed in a favorable position be unchecked, the ball should go to him on the instant. Running gives the opponents time to concentrate, and to cover their men. Running has been called the refuge of the bad player, and certain it is that an inveterate runner will always be one who is not clever with his crosse. He is a nuisance on a side, for there can be no combination with a man who is perpetually sprinting half the length of the field.

Lacrosse is not a game of sustained effort, but one of a succession of little tussles, the sharper while they last for being short-lived. The player's motto should be, obtain the ball as often as you can; hold it as little as you can. But this motto cannot be followed out in practice if the player does not qualify himself therefor. What a novice wants is to have the ball frequently on his crosse, and if is put green-handed into a match this is precisely what he does not get. There is no quicker way of getting handy with the crosse than by forming a ring of four or five players (with five or more, two balls can be circulating at the same time) and throwing the ball from one to the other, the throws being varied as much as possible. It is not necessary to have more than one of the players an expert, but there should be at least one who initiates the learners into the various throws and the manner of catching the ball. It must be the object of each man to pass the ball on with the greatest expedition. Catches will come to him high and low, and wide on either side, and the throws have to be made from those positions, the player not being supposed to revert to his favorite attitude before throwing on.

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Another essential thing to practise is

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passing when running fast. Two players should place themselves about twenty yards apart and start running along parallel lines. The one with the ball throws to the other, who catches it and throws it back again, and so on. Before they have progressed very far, they will find how essential it is to throw well ahead, so that the ball falls into the outstretched crosse of the other runner. A little too far ahead does not matter, as the speed can be accelerated : what has to be avoided is throwing so as to compel the runner to check himself in his career, and lose time, which loss, in a match, would mean letting up an opponent to check. If the ball does not absolutely drop into the crosse, it does not so much signify if the player can reach it. Only it must be in front of him, so that he carries it along as he goes. The throw for this work must be done with the wrists, the overhand throw being the best, and the practice is highly beneficial in teaching the player to throw quickly and accurately under difficulties.

The position taken up by first home will give the key to much of the play on the attack, and the position of first home again will be dependent upon the player occupying it. Some first homes are mere throwing machines, who stand rooted to a fixed spot waiting to be passed to. They never leave that spot, never disputing possession of the ball with anyone. Their merit lies in the deadliness of their shot, when made ; but if the opportunity for passing to them never arrives, they never make a shot at all. Such men may score half-a-dozen goals in a match, or remain mere figure-heads ; their usefulness depends entirely upon the skill of the rest of the team in making an opening for them. A man playing this game must place himself as near the goal as he can without giving the goal-keeper the chance of running out to spoil the pass.

With such a first home, point must always be checking closely, and upon him will depend whether the home receives many passes or not. The object of the attack will, of course, be to make point leave first home by coming out to check. With an opponent inside cover-point with the ball, point is bound to come out sooner or later ; but he should leave it to the very last instant of time, and when he does run out to meet the on-coming opponent, he should contrive to

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do so when he will intervene between him and first home. The pass will then have to be made high over point's head, which will give time for some one to reach first home before the ball does so. On the other hand, first home should not allow point to be between himself and the man with the ball, but place himself in the best position for a pass. This is one of the most critical situations that can arise in a game, and all that is possible is to give general advice.

Another kind of first home is the muscular dodger, who relies upon his ability to get round point or anyone else. A dodger who keeps his head clear is invaluable, but so few do this, their frequent practice being to persevere in endeavoring to pass their man out of sheer doggedness, whereas a friend is probably waiting for the pass. Personally, I am not partial to a dodging first home, for it is difficult to combine with him, since one never knows where to find him. It should be distinctly understood, before the game begins, on which side of goal first home stands.

Some advocate the placing of first home some distance from goal—say fifteen yards, or even a trifle more, and I think this an excellent plan. It gives first home plenty of space to manœuvre in, and the larger the area point has to cover, the worse it is for him. Second and third home can do a deal of execution by means of a successful dodge, as this should enable them to either run in for a shot, or get first home clear.

Young players are continually asking whether they should shoot at long range or not. This depends upon many conditions. A shot from fifteen yards' range should be stopped every time by the goal-keeper; but if a player is a very powerful thrower it is a very good thing for him to take his shot, providing it has been previously arranged that first home, or whoever may be nearest to the goal-keeper, dashes in after it and tries to score of the rebound. This play is by no means sufficiently followed, one reason being, I suppose, that the hard throwers do not exist in sufficient numbers.

Coming to attack field, one of the most glaring and frequent

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Health.**

mistakes that is made is wandering. If the game is going in their favor they are eager enough to be forward; but directly fortune goes against them they drift into their own half, leaving the miserable homes without

support, and with the least possible chance of scoring. It must be distinctly understood that the duties of attack and defence are separate, and that under no circumstances should an attack field be on the defence side of the centre of play. If his defence are not strong enough to repel the attack, they must lose the match; no pushing up of the attack field will alter the state of things, whilst, when by chance the ball is thrown down past centre, there is no one there to make use of it. Unless the attack wings keep their places an organised game is impossible. In every way it is bad for an attack wing to wander on the defence side of the centre, for, supposing him to secure the ball, he must run forty yards or so before he is in a position to do anything with it. This will cause a general following up of players on the inside, which is not lacrosse at all. When the game is going against a side it is made worse by the attack wings leaving their places.

The great thing lacking is the systematic employment of field captains to direct players what to do in such cases as these. A field captain can only give general directions, and stop men who are about to commit a serious error. Chiefly are they useful amongst inferior players, in making the defence check their men properly, and warning them when the man they are checking is stealing off. The man with the ball they must leave to himself; their work must be in the direction of making his way smooth for him. The word "right" or "left" should be enough to indicate to a player in which direction he will find the better opening. Putting on a field captain for one match will be better than nothing, perhaps, but not much, for the players will not be looking out for his orders, and will not understand half of them when they hear them. If a team could go through a season under the guidance of a capable field-captain, and implicitly obey him, we should see something that would cause that now-despised functionary to become more popular.

A few general remarks may be made upon checking. Anything of the nature of holding an opponent's crosse, except by pressure of the crosse upon his at the moment when he is endeavoring to secure the ball, is high, reprehensible, and irritating to the person offended against. Not less to be condemned is the practice of reaching over a player's shoulder,

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in an endeavor to strike the ball out of the crosse, in such a way as to lean the arm upon the shoulder. The practice of taking a wild slash at an opponent who is outstripping one for speed, hitting him on the elbow or hip, is one upon which the referee should be very severe, as this sort of thing begets retaliation.

Body checking is an art, and, when well carried out, is very disconcerting to the dodger. The checker must take no notice whatever of the dodger's crosse or the ball, but simply study to place himself in the way, so that he cannot pass. Body-checking is most useful in the vicinity of third man's position.

Shots for goal may be more frequently prevented than is the case by the point-blank check. To execute this the checker must be within the length of his crosse of the thrower, whose crosse he watches, and, as the forward movement of the throw is made, the checker darts out his crosse at arm's length, the result being that it meets the other crosse somewhere midway in the course of the throw. Great care must be taken in thrusting the crosse out that the butt does not point toward the body, but to one side, as the violent contact with the other crosse might cause injury.

No checker should pursue a running opponent beyond the position for the next defence player, it being the duty of the last-named to come out to intercept, his opponent being taken in hand by the original pursuer.

I cannot conclude this chapter on Canada's own game without entering a protest in regard to the way the game has been abused during the last year or two.

A really good game in itself testing the powers of the athlete to the very utmost, it has degenerated into a slugging match pure and simple, to the average on-looker, though to the supporters of the winning side it may be called lacrosse of the most scientific type.

An outsider cannot shut his eyes to the reason for this decadence. It is money! All lovers of the game know this, and it is only now, when it has become a scandal, measures are being taken to cleanse this Augean stable.

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NO book on Sports emanating from Montreal would be complete without reference being made to what is now a landmark of the city, the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, which has done so much to foster an interest in the different branches of sport which are connected with it. Its aims are to keep each sport on a strictly amateur basis, which in these days of mixing the pay of the professional with the social standing of the amateur, is indeed a herculean task; still, with energetic committees with the good of athletics at heart, there is little fear of the result. The city of Montreal should be proud of such an institution, for its influences are widespread, and are used more especially for the good of youth. It may be of interest to give a short history of the club, for some of the facts for which I have to return my thanks to the Montreal *Witness*.

THE FORMATION OF THE M. A. A. A.

Its formation originated in the minds of some of the older members of the senior clubs, and its history briefly told is as follows: In 1859 a gymnasium club was organized. This club in 1862 induced the McGill University authorities to erect a gymnasium near the old High School, to be used conjointly for the benefit of the pupils and the club. In 1867 the members formed a joint stock company and erected on the corner of Mansfield and Burnside streets the splendid and commodious stone edifice now owned and occupied by the M.A.A.A. The gymnastic institution flourished for some years, but later interest in it fell off, especially on the part of the younger members. This was the condition of things in March 1877, when the officers of the Montreal Lacrosse and Snowshoe Clubs determined to have some fixed habitation for club meetings. They leased two rooms in the Montreal Gymnasium. This joint occupancy was continued until the end of 1878, when the gymnasium directors,

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finding they were gradually but surely falling in arrears, for they had a heavy mortgage on the building, determined to sell the property. The two clubs, finding that the rooms they occupied had been of great use to them, made overtures to the gymnasium authorities to lease the whole building for a term of years. After some trouble this proposition was accepted in January, 1879, at a rental of \$1,000 a year. The gymnasium was then thoroughly overhauled and a shooting gallery added. Rules and regulations relating to the new order of existence were promulgated, and card playing and gambling were strictly prohibited. The clubs prospered under the new *régime*. Some of the leading spirits who had thus far guided events now proposed a scheme to save the gymnasium for athletics and the building as a home for the clubs. The rental barely gave the directors enough to pay the interest on the mortgage and other sundry expenses, and they were still talking of selling. The clubs accordingly offered to assume the mortgage if the shareholders would deed over to them the property, and receive in return a life membership in the building and club house. After some months talking about the scheme, in April, 1881, the Lacrosse, Snowshoe and Bicycle Clubs (the latter joining in order to assist the scheme) found themselves in possession of a home of their own and a valuable acquisition towards the promotion of athletic interests.

In June, 1881, an act of incorporation was passed by the Provincial Parliament at Quebec, and under the name of "The Montreal Amateur Athletic Association," the Montreal Gymnasium lost its identity in its amalgamated successor. Such was the formation of the Association. From that time it has "boomed" in every sense of the term. Above all, its membership increased—one of the healthiest signs of an institution—it became a most popular resort. It had a most salient feature, and one which without any doubt contributed very largely towards its success, the evils of gambling and drink were most strictly eliminated.

The M.A.A.A. is composed of six clubs—the Montreal Lacrosse

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Club, the Montreal Snowshoe Club, the Montreal Bicycle Club, the Montreal Football Club, the Montreal Cricket Club, and the Tuque Bleue Toboggan Club. The Association chose for its crest a unique conception

in the shape of a winged wheel on a double barred shield under which is the motto: "Jungor ut Implear," which means literally "Union is strength." It is due to the manner in which the Association stuck to this motto the success which it has attained at the present day.

Montreal athletes keep on improving if only in booming athletic sports, and no greater evidence is there of the truth of this than that great monument to Montreal's love of athletic sports, the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association. This great institution is the result of the natural inclination of the Montrealer for athletics, and the pre-dominance of amateur athletic sports over professional—predominance which existed in Greece, was perpetuated in Great Britain, and to-day is so much in evidence in the M. A. A. A.

In concluding this short story of the club I would again refer to the influence for good—moral as well as physical—which the M. A. A. A. exercises over the young men of this city and which is very great. There they learn the true value and meaning of honor and fair play. They are safe-guarded against gambling and strong drink. The founder, in order to eliminate all fear of the former, prohibited the playing of cards; while as for drink, nothing of the kind is tolerated on the premises. There they learn practically that when the body is kept in a healthful condition by exercise, liquor becomes repulsive to the senses. Among some of its maxims it says that "daily exercise will wonderfully help young men, in connection with cool baths and a simple diet, to live chaste lives." The M. A. A. A. also engenders a feeling of loyalty among the young men for everything Canadian and national.

I cannot close this short tribute without congratulating the members on their selection of President. Mr. Sheppard is himself a young man, consequently is able to look with a more lenient eye on any little infraction of rules, occasioned by nothing more harmful than the exuberance of youthful spirits, than would a man whose age has made him forget the follies of youth.

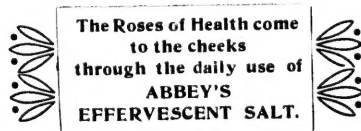
The Association, too, should be proud in possessing the President of

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the Amateur Athletic Association of Canada as a member, in the person of Mr. H. Brophy, and all true lovers of clean sport will congratulate him on his temerity in so quickly tackling the amateur status after his accession to power.

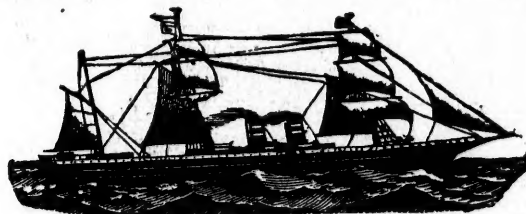
Last, but by no means least, comes the name of the Secretary, Mr. Herbert Brown, whose arduous, and at times thankless duties, are so thoroughly and genially carried out. It is safe to say that as long as he holds the position, the wants—within reason—of the members will be studied to the best of his ability.

Long may the M. A. A. flourish like the proverbial "green bay tree" to carry on its good work.



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